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No. 50**

**Exonyms - standards or standardisation**

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## In this issue

### **Preface**

- Message from the Chairperson 3

### **From the Secretariat**

- Message from the Secretariat 4

### **Special Feature – Exonyms – standards or standardization?**

- What are the benefits of discerning between endonym and exonym and what does this divide mean 5-6
- Use of Exonyms in National Standardization of Geographical Names in Ukraine 6-7
- Dealing with Exonyms in Croatia 8-9
- History of Exonyms in Madagascar 9-11
- Are there endonyms, exonyms or both? The need for standardization 12-15
- Exonyms, Standards and Standardization: New Directions 15-18
- Practice of Exonyms use in Egypt 19-24
- Dealing with Exonyms in Slovenia 25-29
- Exonyms Used for Country Names in the Republic of Korea 29
- Botswana – Exonyms – standards or standardization? 30

### **From the Divisions**

- East Central and South-East Europe Division 32
- Portuguese-speaking Division 33

### **From the Working Groups**

- WG on Exonyms 31
- WG on Evaluation and Implementation 34

### **From the Countries**

- Burkina Faso 34-37
- Brazil 38
- Canada 38-42
- Republic of Korea 42
- Indonesia 43
- Islamic Republic of Iran 44
- Saudi Arabia 45-46
- Sri Lanka 46-48
- State of Palestine 48-50

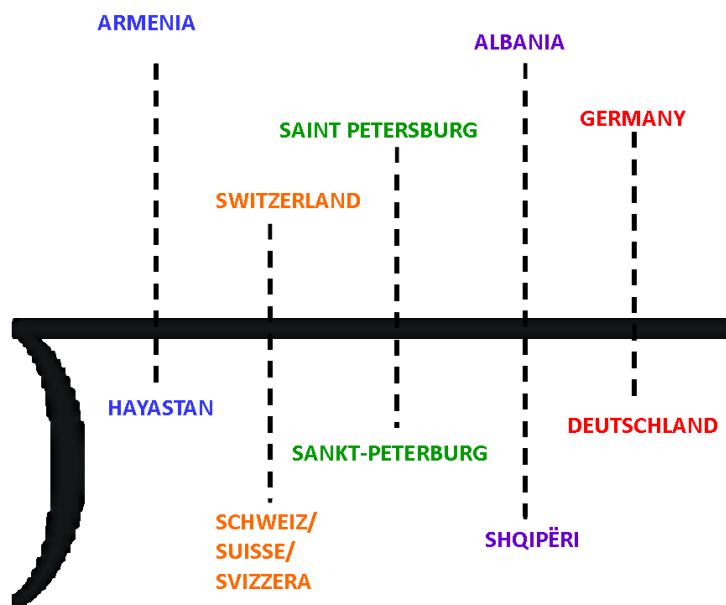
### **Training and Education**

- International Consortium of Universities for Training in Geographical Names established 51

- Upcoming Meetings 52

## Exonyms – standards or standardization?

### Exonyms/Endonyms





## UNGEKN Information Bulletin

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## Message from the Chairperson



*Dear colleagues,*

*We have just enjoyed a successful and informative UNGEGN Session. It would be inappropriate as we consider this not to thank those who were involved in the organisation. The UN staff at Bangkok looked after us very well, the translators did their normal excellent work and the UNGEGN secretariat, Cecille in person and Vilma in New York supported us well prior, during and after the session. In addition, our activities are supported by the UN Statistical Division and I would like to thank Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of the UN Statistical Division for his continued support.*

I enjoyed the session. The special presentations were informative and I thank those who took the time to make these presentations. I also found the increased discussions on the papers presented both informative and pleasing to see the involvement of the delegates.

I was also pleased to see the new delegates both from countries who have been represented in the past and also the new countries who were represented for the first time.

As a body, we have a lot to consider in the near future. As discussed, we have a need to look at how UNGEGN operates and determine what is the best options for the future. The Bureau will be considering the various options as discussed, and we will use this bulletin to keep all delegates informed as to the considerations. Please look at them and discuss them in your own jurisdictions so when we meet in the conference we can come to a consensus on the future operational methodology.

As we consider the future, I would like all delegates to bear in mind that as well as working together, we also have to show others of the benefits that the work of UNGEGN can bring. There are two areas I have been considering, summarised as follows:

- We need to look at how we can work with UNGGIM and I would encourage all of us to make meaningful contact with the UNGGIM representative in our own countries if you have one. There need to be cooperation at the local level as well as the UN level to ensure that the work of both parties can be in harmony and will be as successful as possible.
- We must always remember that the UNGEGN is ultimately funded by all the countries that are members of the United Nations. In recent conversations I have had with the both the UNGGIM representative and the ECOSOC representative from Australia, I have come to realise that these individuals do not fully understand the scope and depth of what we do at UNGEGN. If this is the same for all other countries, we have a task before us to promote UNGEGN. As others come to realise the importance of the work of UNGEGN so that the reports we present to ECOSOC are more meaningful. Again, I ask that where and when possible, we take the time to contact the UN mission and explain the structure, goals and work of UNGEGN. I believe this will assist to consolidate the future of UNGEGN.

I look forward to seeing you all in New York in August 2017 for our next session and conference.

**Bill Watt**

Chair, UNGEGN

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## Message from the Secretariat



**Dear UNGEKN Experts,**

*Fifty is considered to be a favourable number, signifying regeneration; an apt description for the UNGEKN Bulletin as this edition marks its Golden issue. The UNGEKN Secretariat thanks all the contributors for the past 28 years for supporting the preparation of the Bulletin and thereby sharing knowledge globally on the standardization of geographic names.*

The Working Group on Publicity and Funding and the Secretariat offer you this 50th issue of the UNGEKN bulletin under the theme “Exonyms – standards or standardization?”. A most debated topic for which 10 articles were received, covering an examination of the term and how it is being used by Member States. This 50<sup>th</sup> issue also includes the usual sections: - divisional reports, updates from working groups, country papers and notices on upcoming meetings. A new section has been added on Training and Education which was inspired by the announcement of the establishment of the International Consortium of Universities for Training in Geographical Names (ICUTGN). Page 34 carries the

continuation of Burkina Faso’s article from the 49th issue on “Names and Mapping at 1/200,000 in Burkina Faso”. I particularly enjoyed learning about Indonesia’s development of GIS and mobile applications for the efficient and accurate acquisition of toponyms, featured on page 43. We look forward to receiving follow-up articles from Indonesia that shares their implementation and use experiences.

The UNSD, UNGEKN Secretariat thanks all attendees to the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEKN in Bangkok in April 2016. One hundred and eighty of you from 22 of 24 linguistic/geographical divisions and 49 Member States discussed 85 working papers and six special presentations and adopted 17 decisions. These will be brought to the attention of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in July 2016. It is interesting to note that there were increased discussions during the session; with 85 interventions, most of them from the Arabic, the Dutch and German and the USA and Canada divisions. The most discussed agenda items were activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers and the Working Group on Geographical Names as Cultural Heritage. Experts are encouraged to review the special presentations delivered by Director of [UNSD Stefan Schweinfest](#) and Chair of [UNGEKN William Watt](#) on the objectives and work being done on the modernization of the Group’s working methods and strengthening of its substantive relationship with UN-GGIM. In moving forward the Secretariat and the Bureau will continue to engage UNGEKN membership in these discussions. If you were not able to be in Bangkok, please note that the sessions over the five days are available for viewing on the [UNSD’s YouTube channel](#). The final edited report is available on the [29<sup>th</sup> Session webpage](#).

Please note that the **30<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEKN** will be convened on 7 and 18 August 2017 and the **11<sup>th</sup> UNCISG** will be from 8-17 August 2017 in New York. You are encouraged to note these dates in your schedule and begin to make your preparations.

Member States and national institutions responsible for geographical names are reminded to submit their information for the UNGEKN World Geographical Names Database. You are also encouraged to tweet at [@UNSD\\_GEGN](#). For the following two issues of the Bulletin we wish to include a section highlighting UNGEKN’s 50 year history. We therefore welcome your inputs in the form of articles/stories, pictures, personal, national and global geographic names milestones, achievements etc. Please remember to repost and circulate the bulletin among your colleagues and hoping you will find this issue enriching and interesting.

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# Special Feature

## Exonyms/Endonyms

### What are the benefits of discerning between endonym and exonym and what does this divide mean?

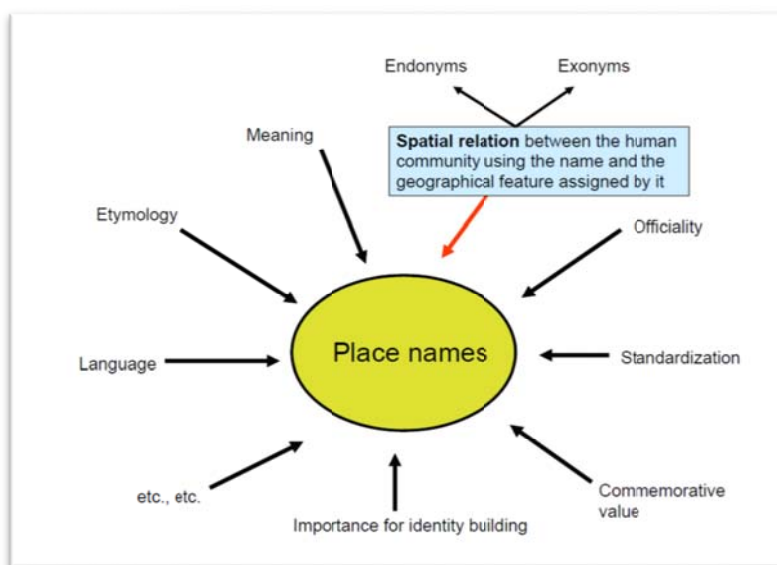
#### Endonym and exonym – pragmatic categories of place names

Geographical names in the sense of names applied to a feature on Earth can be regarded under various aspects: their language, their etymology, their meaning, whether they have been made official or not, whether they have been standardized, as regards their commemorative value, their importance for identity building, and many others. The aspect leading to the endonym/exonym divide is the spatial relationship between the human community using the name and the geographical feature assigned by it (see also Figure). This is a sociological and geographical (space-related) aspect and thus predominantly an aspect for which these two sciences have competence, though this does not exclude the involvement of others.

As noted, it is just one of many aspects of geographical names, but a very important one, because it coincides with two basic human attitudes: (1) to differentiate between “mine” and “yours”, “ours” and “theirs”; and (2) territoriality, i.e. the desire to own a place, a desire expressing itself at all the various levels of human activity and community building – from the basic desire to have a workplace, a flat or a house at one’s own disposal up to the desires of states, which strive to exert their power and law over a well-defined territory. It has therefore always had a political, social and juridical meaning and is for this reason very sensitive and frequently a source of political conflict. It is also not by chance that the endonym/exonym divide attracts so much interest and that the United Nations as an institution of crisis management has “an eye on it”.

Place names are not just elements of a language in the sense of an abstract phenomenon, irrespective of where the features

assigned by them are located in geographical space. A language has always speakers with a location in space, forming a network, a linguistic community. Individual speakers as well as the linguistic community in total have always also neighbours, who use partly different names for the same feature. While a place name used by the local group for a feature can be termed endonym, place names used for the same feature by external groups are termed exonyms. There is in fact no escape from the endonym/exonym divide in the sense of a divide between names used by the local group and names used by other groups for the same feature.



**In contrast to endonyms, exonyms do not express territorial claims.**

While assigning a place name to a feature on one’s own territory, i.e. to use an endonym, can indeed be regarded as an expression of ownership and responsibility – of marking one’s own territory –, the use of exonyms must in principle not be associated with territorial claims. Their use corresponds rather to an attitude of making other cultural spheres accessible, of making the alien conceivable. It can, however, not be denied that exonyms are sometimes also used to express territorial claims or a kind of political nostalgia. It is necessary to classify this as a misuse and to avoid it by a politically sensitive use of exonyms.

It may also have been this attitude that made the United Nations passing resolutions with the aim of reducing and discouraging the use of exonyms. My approach in this respect is rather to “de-demonise” the exonym, to take from it the

odium of expressing political claims, and to emphasise that the endonym is the basic, the primary name. This latter approach results in a clear asymmetry between the endonym and the exonym. While the endonym has several functions in relating man to territory, and the local community to its section of

..“de-demonise” the exonym, to take from it the odium of expressing political claims, and to emphasise that the endonym is the basic, the primary name.



geographical space – among them the very important function of supporting the turn of emotionally neutral space into familiar place – the exonym is rather mono-functional; it facilitates and indicates the network of external relations of a community.

## Endonym and exonym – concepts expandable to other name categories

It is true that a basic concept has to be expandable to other fields to qualify as being valid and useful. The endonym/exonym divide in the sense of a divide between names used by the in-group in contrast to names used by other groups for the same feature does indeed have this quality. It is certainly expandable, e.g., to personal names, boat and ship names, institution names, political party names, ethnic group names and many more – actually to names for all kinds of features that have name users from within and from without. In all these cases we find – not always, but sometimes – a divergence between names used by insiders and outsiders. A person, e.g., can have a nickname in addition to the name they use themselves. The

nickname usually highlights a characteristic of this person and is not always polite. Boats and ships have owners, who assign a name to them. Other people may call them differently.

## Conclusion

This may have demonstrated that the endonym/exonym divide has an important meaning, corresponds to basic human attitudes, is expandable to other name fields, a potential source of conflict and thus also a legitimate topic of standardization and concern of the United Nations as the World's supreme authority of conflict management and prevention.

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## Use of Exonyms in National Standardization of Geographical Name in Ukraine

The keystone for the use of exonyms in the national standardization of geographical names in Ukraine lies in avoiding the creation of new exonyms, and the exonyms which exist and are widely used in a language should not be forcibly removed from the language. An exonym is not only a name of a geographical feature outside of Ukraine but is also a part of our historical and cultural heritage.

Currently there are more than 1,200 exonyms in Ukrainian. They are all collected in the World Atlas published by SSPE "Kartographia" in 2005. The most number of exonyms are names of geographical features of European countries: France, Great Britain, Greece and neighboring countries.

As is well-known, the sound and graphical structure of languages are different, and sounds of foreign languages may be rendered only approximately orally or graphically into a native language. If languages have different writing systems the problems of representation is especially difficult. This is the case of the Ukrainian language which is based on the Cyrillic script. In order to achieve a normalized rendering of geographical names and generic terms outside of Ukraine to Ukrainian, twenty eight instructions were developed on the rendering of names of geographical features outside of Ukrainian from a certain language into Ukrainian, and detailed rules were formulated. In these Instructions there are lists of exonyms for each country. In this way, the use of exonyms in cartographic products was systematized.

In general, the number of exonyms in Ukraine does not increase. In use there are only widely known and established exonyms. For the purposes of discussion Ukrainian exonyms can be divided into three groups:

- Hardly recognized place names or very altered names (in comparison with endonyms) which were established in language (Paris – Париж (pa'ɾɪʒ), København – Копенгаген (kopen'hagen), Běijīng – Пекин (pe'kin), Wien – Відень ('viden);

Sometimes a foreign name comes into a certain language through an intermediary language which determines its spelling, for example the name of the English town Dover came into

Ukrainian through the French language, in Ukrainian it sounds as "Дувр (duvr)", and the name of Ukrainian capital came into most languages of the world through the Russian language, and that is why it is rendered abroad as Kiev (Engl), Kiew Germ.), Kiev (Span.), Kiev (French) etc. However, lately due to efforts of the Ukrainian government, Ukrainian cartographers and toponymists, there is a tendency towards the correct, endonymic use of the name of Ukrainian capital: Kyiv.

- Names, adapted to Ukrainian orthography (Ладожское озеро ('ladoʒskoje 'ozzero) (Russian Federation) – Ладозьке озеро ('ladoz'ke 'ozero), Сибирь (si'biri) (Russian Federation) – Сибір (si'bir), Віцебск ('vitsebsk) (Belarus) – Вітебськ ('vitebs'ik), Мінськ (m'ins'k) (Belarus) – Могилев (mohilev);
- Translated names (Great Slave Lake (Canada) – Велике Невільничє озеро (ve'li'ke ne'vil'ni'tʃe 'ozero), Slovenský kras (Slovakia) – Словацький Карст (slo'vats'ikij karst), Great Barrier Reef – Великий Бар'єрний риф (ve'li'kij bar'jernih rif).

The most numerous group of exonyms is formed by names of physiographic features (geographical regions, islands, archipelagoes, hills, seas, ranges, rivers). The use of exonyms on Ukrainian maps is more typical for large and well known

physiographic features (plateau Lorraine - Лотаринзьке плоскогір'я (loto'rinz'ke plosko'hir'e), Baffin Island - острів Баффінова Земля ('os'triu 'baffinova zem'lja), Thüringen Wald - гори Тюрінзький ліс (hori t'urinz'kij lis), and Slovenské rudohorie – Словацькі Рудні гори (slo'vatski 'rudni h'ori).

Place names of neighboring countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Russian Federation and Belarus are reflected in great detail on Ukrainian maps. As to rendering the names of boundary geographical features outside of Ukraine, it ought to be noted that on Ukrainian maps as a rule endonyms are used. For rendering of place names of Russia and Belarus whose languages are also based on the Cyrillic script, the transliteration method is used. In the rendering of place names of neighboring countries from languages based on the Roman script (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Hungary) the above mentioned Instructions are used and place names are rendered into Ukrainian as close as possible to the original names. Microtoponymic exonyms are very rarely found.

Traditional names (exonyms) are used for some parts of mountain belts of the Tatras, Carpathians, Beskids, and rivers passing through the territories of two or several countries, geographical and historical regions.

For example for Romanian Carpathians on Ukrainian maps, several exonyms for orographic features are used:  
Carpații Orientali – Східні Карпати (s'xidni ker'pat'i)  
Maramureș – Мармарош (merma'roš)  
Arușeni, Munții – Західні Румунські гори (zax'idni rumun'siki h'ori).

Examples of exonyms for historical regions of Poland:  
Małopolska – Мала Польща (ma'la 'pol'jŝe), Pomorze – Помор'я (pomo'rie), Warmia – Вармія (var'mije), Wielkopolska – Велика Польща (ve'like 'pol'jŝe).

Exonyms are used of city names which were established in Ukrainian long ago: Tatranská Lomnica (Slovakia) – Татранська Ломниця ('tatrans'ke 'lomits'ije), Košice (Slovakia) – Кошиці ('koŝits'i), Łódź (Poland) – Лодзь (lodzi), Kraków

(Poland) – Краків ('krakiu), București (Romania) – Бухарест (buxa'rest), Chișinău (Moldova) – Кишинів (kiŝi'niu), Маларыта (Belarus) – Малорита (malo'rite), Целина (Russia) – Цілина (tsil'i'na) etc.

As is well-known, exonyms are used for names of cities in different historical times, where different ethnic groups lived and which were constituent part of different states during long periods of their history. Hungarian exonym Ungvár for Ukrainian

endonym Uzhhorod serves as an example. There is a little number of exonyms used on Ukrainian maps for neighbouring Polish regions (Kholmshchyna, Nadsiania), which during centuries belonged to different countries and were inhabited by Polish and Ukrainians, for example, Chelm – Холм (holm), Hrubieszów – Грубешів (hru'beŝiv), Przemyśl – Перемишль (pe'remiŝli), Rzeszów – Ряшів (r'jaŝiv); for neighbouring Belarus regions: Брэст – Берестя (be'restje) (Брест) (brest), Драгічын – Дрогичин (dro'hitchin Drohychyn), Лунінец – Лунинец (luni'netsi), Столін – Столин (stolin)



Use of Exonyms on the Wall "World Polytical Map" in scale 1:15 000 000 (exonyms are marked by white shadow)

It is important to note some properties of exonyms which show the benefits of their use. These properties are the following:

1. Exonyms are more stable than endonyms.
2. Exonyms often point to the existence of traditional relationships which were established between countries (history, culture, trade).
3. Exonyms connect names of geographical features across different language entities.
4. Exonyms always require taking into consideration historical and ethnical factors.

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## Dealing with Exonyms in Croatia

### Introduction

So far, exonyms (or foreign geographical names, as referred to in some Croatian papers) have been very poorly addressed in Croatian professional works and scientific researches of linguists, geographers, historians, ethnologists and other scholars, despite their broad usage in professional textbooks, handbooks, atlases, media and general public discourse. As a research topic, exonyms have obviously not been regarded as a troublesome issue, although, as it turned out, they can be very challenging linguistic substance. There are three main interconnected reasons for such a treatment:

- a) a unique national authority for the standardization of geographical names that would deal with exonyms, as well as endonyms, in a systematic and responsible manner has not been established yet,
- b) the basic list of exonyms which would serve as the starting point for studying (and deleting) as well as standardizing them still does not exist,
- c) the experts that should be interested in exonyms by default very rarely consider generally problematic issues of writing exonyms, assuming the problem can be solved simply by implementation of orthographic rules (just a handful of researchers have made linguistically based analysis of small number of exonyms), let alone they try to standardize all of them.

The highest level of standardization was achieved in the field of country names, since the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs published the booklet with the list of official country names in 2012. Of course, presented forms of names are meant to serve only official diplomatic purposes, and therefore are not obligatory for the unofficial usage. Thus, the problem of using unofficial more or less adapted or fully adopted/accepted Croatian forms of country names in various professional books, encyclopaedias, atlases and media, still remains. The problem is even more complex when bearing in mind that only country names had that sort of treatment. Until recently, other types of names have not been systematically dealt with at all.

### Projects on Exonyms

In order to initiate the problem-resolving process, or at least to enhance the awareness of the exonym writing inconsistencies among the professionals and within the public sphere, the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography – the respectable lexicographical institution founded in Zagreb in 1950 that have been producing influential and reliable national publications such as the 11-volume *Croatian Encyclopaedia* and multi-volume *Croatian Biographical Lexicon* as well as many one-volume lexicons, atlases, dictionaries and so on (so far more than 250 different editions) – initiated not one but two projects regarding exonyms in 2013 and 2014. The first, *A Dictionary of Foreign Geographical Names*, is a professional project, which employs experts from the Institute with a few external collaborators (scientists of linguistics and geography). The second, *A Comparative Analysis of Croatian and Slovenian Exonyms*, was a two-year long bilateral scientific Croatian-Slovenian project (2014–15) conducted jointly at the Miroslav

Krleža Institute of Lexicography (Croatia) and the Anton Melik Geographical Institute (Slovenia). It had engaged geographers, linguists and a cartographer from both institutes.



Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography building

### A Dictionary of Foreign Geographical Names

The main purpose of the project *A Dictionary of Foreign Geographical Names* is to make a scientifically and lexicographically established basis for the standardization of exonyms, i.e. to produce a database of recommended exonyms that could be used in the standardization process once we get there. The main activities of the project include collecting, systematising and categorising exonyms, and recommending a certain form of exonym. The expected outcome of the project is to publish a printed and/or online version of presumably two reference books with a dictionary database form. The first one will provide recommended names of countries, their capitals and dependent territories. Additionally, it would present recommended adjectival, genitive and locative forms of country names and names of capitals, which are, similarly to the names of inhabitants, a very confusing and vague linguistic area with very few definitive and entirely accepted names. The second book will provide the list of all recommended exonyms (names of countries, dependent territories, settlements, regions, seas, oceans, continents, rivers, lakes, mountains, coastal relief forms, historical regions and sites, etc.). Similarly to the Slovenian example, it is expected to list around 4,000-5,000 exonyms in total. The third outcome would be to design an online display of all forms of exonyms collected in 18 sources (dating from the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century until today). Therefore, the final phase of the project would involve making a web-friendly representation of all exonym forms and their geographical and lexical attributes. This database would be appropriate for the additional input of exonyms from complementary sources, and for adding new attributes.

## A Comparative Analysis of Croatian and Slovenian Exonyms

The main purposes of the bilateral project *A Comparative Analysis of Croatian and Slovenian Exonyms* were:

- to establish a unique exonym classification typology according to the intensity of name adaptation,
- to analyse various social, political and linguistic influences on different process of adaptation (exonymization) in two closely related South Slavic languages, which during their historical development came under the influence of various other languages and various language policies, determined by the broader framework of Hungary and Austria.



Presentation of bilateral project taken during the Zagreb WGE Meeting.

Of course, the most interesting are those exonyms that arose in only one of the two languages, so the analysis have been focused on the reasons for such a situation. Since the project time was *de facto* shorter than two years, and the Croatian team had to start by collecting exonyms from primary sources while Slovene team could use already published *The Gazetteer*

of *Slovenian Exonyms*, the Croatian researchers opted for a thematically differentiated approach that could provide at least a basic list of selected exonyms (country names, names of capitals and names of dependent territories) for the initial comparison. At the very beginning, a quick overview of exonyms in both languages revealed that most of them are identical, that some only differed in details, and that the ones that differ significantly in both languages account for the smallest share. Papers that are currently being prepared by the collaborators on the project address the issues of the intensity of influences on the exonymization process in both languages and investigate comparative differences between them. Regarding the first purpose of the project, the existing well-developed version of the Slovenian exonymization types had been slightly modified so that it could fit both, the Croatian and Slovenian language needs.

## Conclusion

The preliminary findings of both projects have already been presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, which was hosted by the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography in Zagreb (Croatia), 14–16 May 2015, and during the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division of the UNGEGN, which was held at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts in Ljubljana (Slovenia), 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The issue of exonym standardization will be discussed at the symposium on Croatian language planning and policies that will be held in Rijeka (Croatia) in June 2016. The first book – with the working title “Names of countries, capitals and their inhabitants” – should be published in 2016, and the second one later on.

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(English version)

## History of Exonyms in Madagascar

### Malgachisation of French Exonyms

Since Madagascar's independence in 1960, nationalists have continued to work to restore the Malagasy as first national language and its fair value as a cultural heritage with all its poetic beauty. A cultural project was initiated, starting with the choice of language of instruction.

This trend propelled by patriotic intentions, was intensified after the resurrection of 1972 that resulted in an extensive “malgachisation” which included toponyms.

At that time, one started saying “Parisy” for Paris, “Frantsa” for France, “Etazonia” for the US and so on, in order to facilitate the pronunciation of these toponyms.

It must be noted that the Malagasy alphabet does not contain the letters c, q, u, and w. In addition, words can end with vowels o, or was there but never with the letter e, so to say the word “Mauritius” Mauritius for example, one must write “Maoris” for writing and a phonetic rendering acceptable.

If the project was completed, Madagascar would have as many exonyms as countries in the world; and since these exonyms were simply French exonyms in Malagasy, let's call them just for fun “exonyms of exonyms”, doubly exonyms!



## To the Eradication of Exonyms

However, the participation of Madagascar in the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) allowed taking note of its recommendations. One being the restriction of the use of exonyms or even its deletion.

It is for the implementation of this recommendation that one of the main initiators of the malgachisation project (who was Director General of the National Geographic Institute and Hydrographic and also Vice Chairman of the National Committee on Geographical Names) put forward a proposal as a subject for reflection: opt for using endonyms for each country and abandon the French exonyms that was used previously.

Thus, "Paris" is maintained, "France" as well, but «Etats-Unis» is replaced by "United States", "Londres" by "London" ...

This was the main topic that Madagascar expressed in 2002 during the 8th UNCSGN in Berlin, in its presentation entitled "Standardization of Geographical Names and Reduction of exonyms".

In this version, exonyms would simply be eradicated, at least in writing. Indeed, everyone is aware that, though laudable, it was impossible to realize because even without going into etymological or other details, the pronunciation constitutes definitely a blockage. It makes return to the beginning of the problems that led to the creation of exonyms.

## (French version)

# Histoire D'exonymes À Madagascar

## Malgachisation d'exonymes français

Depuis l'accès de Madagascar à l'indépendance en 1960, les nationalistes n'ont pas cessé d'œuvrer pour remettre le malgache à sa place de 1ère langue nationale et lui rendre sa juste valeur en tant qu'héritage culturel ayant toute sa beauté poétique. Un véritable projet culturel a été ainsi initié, à commencer par le choix de la langue d'enseignement.

Recommande que les organismes nationaux chargés des noms géographiques dressent des listes des exonymes couramment employés, voient s'il y a lieu d'en supprimer certains et publient les résultats de cet examen.

Nevertheless, the significant and positive result of this presentation was that it prompted the resumption of the working group's activities on the exonym (WGE) which ceased after 4<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN due to differences of views.

Since then, various studies and expert consultations have followed. The discussions were mostly very animated during each meeting of the WGE that demonstrated the interest but also the challenge of finding a way out of the impasse. Adjustments were made in both the definition of exonym and its scope. But the ideal solution satisfying everyone is still to be found if it exists.

## To the Reduction of Exonyms

Given the significant inconveniences in both scenarios presented above, the implementation of the recommendation of UNCSGN regarding the reduction of exonyms could be done only through a sensible compromise.

Thus, for Madagascar, as French being so far its 2nd official language despite the impressive resurgence and the strong success entailed by English with the Malagasy youth, the list of Malagasy exonyms would for now be the same as that of the French exonyms prepared jointly by the Commission on Toponymy of Quebec (Canada) and the national Commission on Toponymy (CNT) of France.

This will avoid unnecessary duplication and as much risk of complications, judging the endless discussions on exonym between the UNGEGN experts.

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Cette tendance propulsée par des intentions patriotiques, a été intensifiée après la résurrection de 1972 et a abouti à une malgachisation à outrance qui n'a pas laissé les toponymes en reste.

Ainsi, on a commencé à dire « Parisy » pour Paris, « Frantsa » pour France,

« Etazonia » pour Etats-Unis, ainsi de suite, dans le but, entre autres, de faciliter la prononciation des noms de ces pays.





Il faut en effet noter que l'alphabet malgache ne contient pas les lettres c, q, u, et w. En plus, les mots peuvent se terminer par les voyelles o, a ou y mais jamais par la lettre e, si bien que pour prononcer le mot « Maurice » de l'île Maurice par exemple, on doit écrire « Maorisy » pour une écriture et un rendu phonétique acceptable.

Si le projet était mené à terme, Madagascar aurait eu alors autant d'exonymes que de pays dans le monde entier. Et ces exonymes auraient été tout simplement des exonymes français qu'on a malgachisés, appelons pour égayer ces doublement exonymes « exonymes d'exonymes »,!

### Vers l'éradication des Exonymes

Cependant, la participation de Madagascar aux Conférences des Nations Unies sur la Normalisation des Noms Géographiques (CNUNNG) a permis de prendre bonne note des recommandations émises. L'une d'elles correspond à la limitation de l'utilisation des exonymes, voire leur suppression.

C'est pour la mise en œuvre de cette recommandation que l'un des principaux initiateurs du projet malgachisation qui était Directeur Général de l'Institut Géographique et Hydrographique National, et aussi Vice-président du Comité National des Noms Géographiques, a avancé une proposition comme sujet à réflexion: opter pour l'utilisation des endonymes pour chaque pays et délaisser les exonymes français que l'on a utilisé jusqu'alors.

Ainsi, on maintiendrait « Paris » pour Paris, « France » pour France, mais on prendrait « United States » au lieu de « les Etats-Unis », « London » et non Londres.

C'est principalement le sujet dont Madagascar a fait part en 2002 durant la 8<sup>ème</sup> CNUNNG à Berlin, lors de sa présentation intitulée « Standardization of Geographical Names and Reduction of exonyms ».

Dans cette version, les exonymes seraient tout simplement éradiqués, tout au moins en écriture. En effet, d'aucun est conscient que l'intention, quoique fort louable, était quasiment irréalisable car même sans entrer dans les détails étymologiques ou autres, la prononciation constitue déjà un blocage définitif. Et on revient obligatoirement à la case départ des problèmes à l'origine de la création des exonymes.

Néanmoins, le résultat notable et positif de cette présentation a été le fait qu'elle a incité la reprise des activités du groupe de travail sur l'exonyme (GTE) qui ont été interrompues après la 4<sup>ème</sup> CNUNNG à cause de divergences de points de vue.

Depuis, diverses études et concertations des experts se sont succédées, les discussions la plupart du temps très animées durant chaque réunion du GTE démontrent l'intérêt mais aussi l'enjeu de trouver une voie de sortie de l'impasse. Des rectifications ont été apportées aussi bien dans la définition de l'exonyme que dans son champ d'application. Mais la solution idéale satisfaisant tout le monde est encore à rechercher si elle existe.

### Pour la réduction des exonymes

Compte-tenu des inconvénients notables dans les deux cas de figures présentés ci-dessus, la mise en œuvre de la recommandation du CNUNNG concernant la réduction des exonymes ne pourrait s'effectuer que par un compromis sensé.

Ainsi, pour Madagascar, le français étant jusqu'à ce jour sa 2<sup>ème</sup> langue officielle malgré l'impressionnante recrudescence de l'anglophonie et le vif du succès qu'elle enregistre auprès de

la jeunesse malagasy, la liste des exonymes malgache serait pour le moment la même que celle des exonymes français, préparée conjointement par la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada) et la Commission nationale de Toponymie (CNT) de la France.

On éviterait ainsi d'inutiles duplications et autant de risques de complications à en juger les interminables discussions sur l'exonyme au niveau des experts du GENUNG.

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— Signature d'un protocole, en mars 2001, entre la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada) et la Commission nationale de toponymie (CNT) de France. Suite à cette signature, les deux commissions se sont engagées dans la réalisation d'une base de données des exonymes français car, depuis plusieurs années, des travaux sur ce sujet se sont faits de part et d'autre.

\* E/CONF.94/1.

\*\* Préparé par Pierre Planques, Président de la Commission de toponymie de l'Institut géographique national et de la Division francophone du GENUNG.



## Are they endonyms, exonyms or both? The need for standardization

In the following, we are going to highlight some place names in Tunisia and try to classify them with respect to the definitions/classifications set by the UNEGn glossary of terms, as well as to some research references achieved in the field by the UNEGn experts.

But first let us set the context by stating that, while Tunisia is a small country, its toponymic landscape is very heterogeneous and witnesses three millennia of a rich history through which Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Berbers, Arabs, Spaniards, Turks, Italians and French lived and left their imprints including on places naming.

The weight of the French colonial era has been the most influential one to impact this landscape and has left records on the base mapping established at that time by French colonists, a considerable legacy, in use until today.

Thus, the French language acquired by the educational system in parallel with Arabic, allowed the acceptance of the French transcription of place names as evidence, without being particularly shocked by its inconsistencies and anachronisms even after more than half a century of independence.

While avoiding dilemmas about the definition and separation of an endonym and an exonym that have been widely debated by UNEGn experts and whose definitions have been precisely set, but mostly, because of the above mentioned factors we often face difficulties when we want to classify which toponym belongs to which category? Is it endonym?, exonym? or both?

The choice of the following toponyms case study is made, given the very apparent “distorsion” of those toponyms once transcribed from Arabic into romanized characters. A distortion that may raise questions on their classification like: Are they endonyms? Exonyms that, by frequent use, become endonyms? or both?

- حلق الوادي , **La Goulette**



For example, the name La Goulette. It is the name of a city situated at the North suburb 10 kms from the capital Tunis, famous for being the principal port of Tunisia.

Known also by “La Petite Sicile”, name attributed because of the Italian workers who migrated from Italy and settled down there since 1868.

The endonym in the Arabic language is “حلق الوادي” which means in French: Goulet /gorge de l’oued; in English: bottleneck / throat of the valley, with reference to the 28<sup>th</sup> meters width channel that links the Lake of Tunis to the Gulf of Tunis and around which the city is built.

What is the origin of the name “La Goulette”?

According to historians, La Goulette (French nomenclature) is derived from the Italian name “Goletta” (small throat). To be mentioned is that the Italian language was dominating given the large number of Italians who were living there during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

From the definition of exonym “a name used in a specific language for a →geographical feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing in its form from the name used in the official language or languages of the area where the geographical feature is situated” (UNEGn Glossary of Terms), Goletta is then an Italian exonym and La Goulette a French exonym.

But if we take into account the intensive use of the toponym La Goulette in all national official French documentation, on maps and atlases, on road signs and even in daily speaking, can we keep talking about it as an exonym? Or just considering it as a second endonym?

In front of this uncertainty and confusion about the right classification of this toponym, the resort to implementing the UNEGn standardization should be the most effective solution and that the transliteration should be the best way to alternate from the Arabic form of the name (endonym) to its Romanized one with a minimum risk of distortion and errors.

According to the UNGEGN glossary of terms, transliteration is understood as a method of names conversion between different scripts (not between languages, as is the case for transcription) which means that each character in the source script is replaced in principle by a corresponding character of the target script, and sometimes by more than one character associated with diacritics. Following this, the endonym “حلق الوادي” will be then transliterated Halq Al Wād according to the Arab transcription system<sup>1</sup>.

The toponym La Goulette, very popular in Tunisia, will retain the sound of nostalgia for both Tunisians and for people from abroad who have lived through centuries in this beautiful cosmopolitan city that gathered people from different ethnicities, religions and cultures.

حلق الوادي, Goletta, La Goulette, Petite Sicile... Each name tells a story, conveys a message, ties links between that place and people who lived there. Each name is part of our country's history, part of our cultural heritage. Each name is a mixture of nostalgic feelings that goes deeper than the academic transcription forms.

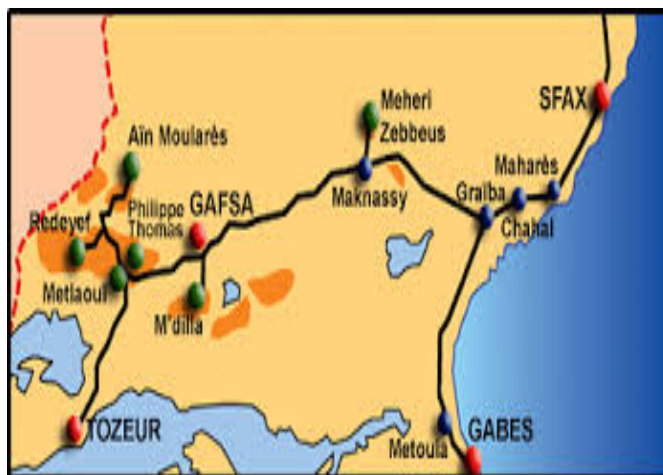
The following are other examples of toponyms that have known distortion when romanized:

## 1. أم العرائس (Moulares), Om Laârayès, Um Al Arayis...

Part of the governorate of Gafsa, “Moulares” is located 355 km from the capital Tunis, in the south-west of the country, on the border to Algeria between the high plains and the Sahara. Gafsa is primarily a mining region where phosphate is the main wealth of the region and “Moulares” counts among the most important mining sites of the region.



<sup>1</sup> Beirut system 1972 amended in 2007 but not yet adopted by the UNGEGN.



The endonym أم العرائس (which literally means أم (mother) and العرائس (Brides): Brides' mother). The exact origin of this denomination Om Laârayès is not known.

Nevertheless, someone can notice that there is absolutely no relation between the endonym أم العرائس and the Latin form. If translation was used from Arabic to French, we should derive “Mère des mariées (Brides' mother in English)”. If we transliterate the endonym using the Arab transcription system, it will become “Um Al 'Arâ'is”.

The endonym could be at least transcribed to Om Laârayès whereas Moulares could be then assimilated to a poor phonetic rendering of Om Laârayès resulting from a difficulty in pronouncing the Arabic endonym. Moulares, that has no meaning, should be then classified as an exonym.

However the problem is, by hint of use, the term Moulares is still officially used on the maps, the road signs as shown above and in other documents. Does this then allow its classification as an endonym?

## 2. أم التمر (Metameur), Om Ettamer, Um At-Tamr



Metameur is part of the governorate (province) of Medenine, It is situated in south-eastern Tunisia at around 500kms from the capital Tunis.



Metameur has a certain cultural and historical prestige/elegance characterized by its ruins and also its ksours (palaces). "Ksar Om Ettamer" is one of the oldest and most famous palaces in Medenine and whose architecture is inspired from the mountainous castles (Ksour of mountain) a characteristic of the Berber villages, known also by their troglodyte's architecture. A ksar is a combination of many rooms conjoined over each other and prepared for storing supplies. Some of them can serve as control towers to protect the castle and control the external enemy from invading tribes.



According to the literal translation, the endonym أم التمر (Om Ettamer): "Om" means mother and "Ettamer" means dates. This denomination should have been attributed given that this place is known for its dates' production.

The transcription of جبل التمر to French language should result in "Om Ettamer". The transliteration according to the Arab transcription system should be "Um At-Tamr".

Like Moulares, Metameur is neither a translation, nor a transliteration, it is simply resulting from a poor phonetic rendering of the Arabic endonym (أم التمر (Om Ettamer)).

### 3. جبال خمير (Kroumirie.), Jibel Khmir

جبال خمير (Jibel Khmir) which means (Mountains of Khmir), Kroumirie or Monts Kroumirie is a mountainous region located

in northwestern Tunisia and northeastern Algeria and known by its extensive forests of cork oak.



The name Jibel Khmir came from Khmir, a Berber tribe who lived in this region. It is told that the name of the tribe is linked to a certain man called Khamir Ben Omar who was the first to occupy this place.

Moulares, Metameur, Kroumirie are neither a translation nor a transliteration from the respective endonyms أم التمر, أم العرائس. All of them are none other than distorted transcriptions made by the French colonizer who had difficulty to make the right spelling and transcription from the original name.

Transcription difficulties from Arabic to Latin characters are primarily related to the lack of full concordance between the two types of alphabet.

Uncertainties and successive approximations distorted the original place names and created exonyms like Kroumirie, Moulares, Metameur.

Also the bilingualism (Arabic, French), undoubtedly appears as one of the elements that have delayed toponymic researches in Tunisia.

The weight of the French colonisation was particularly sensitive in the field of cartography that mainly still relies on the



toponymy inherited from the colonization era and that so far only few maps are edited in Arabic.

All the precedent factors led to the confusing toponymic situation in the country and the frequent and official use of certain exonyms in parallel with their related endonyms may cause confusion about their classification: Are they exonyms, endonyms or both?

The following example of the newspaper released on 2014 where "Kroumirie" is still used to designate one of the best known hunting areas in Tunisia besides the road panels where Moulares, Metameur, La Goulette are written near to the Arabic names simply confirm this confusion.



In conclusion, implementing UNGEGN resolutions related to geographical names' standardization is an emergency to establish, even gradually, a certain order in the toponymic sector, reduce place names' discrepancies and distortion, avoid nomenclature duplication and reduce the use of exonyms while preserving them in a historical toponymic database.

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## Exonyms, Standards and Standardization: New Directions

This paper builds on the paper Endonyms, exonyms, boundaries and standardization, presented at the UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms 16th meeting, Hermagor, Austria, 5-7 June 2014

Note: references to UNCSGN recommendations are drawn from Natural Resources of Canada (ed), 2007.

### 1. Introduction

This paper takes up the UN groups' concerns with exonyms, standards (a new issue) and standardization. and addresses the question, paraphrased here, that Jordan asked in 2009 and which is still relevant in 2016: Why after decades of standardization and of more than a decade of the activities of UNGEGN's Working Group on Exonyms it is still not clear what is an endonym and what is an exonym?

### 2. UN Work on Exonyms and Endonyms

UNGEGN has accepted four definitions of exonym: in 1984, 1992 and 2000 and 2007. The term endonym was first used by Kronsteiner in 1975 and was defined "as a complementary notion of the exonym" (Bartos-Elekes 2008:54). Three definitions of endonym have been accepted by UNGEGN in 1988, 2000 and 2006. It is to be noted that in UN's terminology the two terms, endonym and exonym, are not opposites, as in, for example, "red" and "not red". Thus it cannot be shown that if a specific toponym is an endonym it is not an exonym and vice versa.

Over the years different authors have criticized the definitions and tried to add to them. For example: Jordan (2011) has argued that "emotional ties", "social group" and, later, "a community" are central to the consideration of endonyms and exonyms; Choo (2011:passim) is of the view that a geographical feature can be split into different segments depending on the way that local people perceive the feature; and Woodman (2014:14) has emphasized "voluntariness" and "localness" in proposing a new

definition. Additionally, the definitions have proved impractical or difficult to apply. For example: (Zych 2012:86) wrote "that there was no coherent and logical definition of the term 'exonym' that could be widely applied to the lists of exonyms " while Crljenko (2014:8) writes: "Thus, I can conclude that it is possible to make a

“the current UNGEGN definitions of endonym and exonym are divorced from all other aspects of natural languages”

comprehensive list of foreign geographical names ... without knowing the details of these definitions". For others the definitions seem to be too limiting, in particular Kladnik (2007:119), Crljenko (2014:7) and Zych (2011:178-179) and that it is the language that is the focus of their work, rather than the state or some other aspect. A further indication of the inadequacy of the definitions is the frequent argument for subcategories of the two terms. For example: Woodman (2012:13) writes of "honorary *de facto* members of a

language", (Zych (2006:2) states that the Polish Commission has introduced the term "quasi-exonyms", Kladnik " (2007:124) writes of a "naturalized exonym", and Crljenko (2014:3 and 7) notes the use of "adapted, adopted, domesticated" foreign geographical names".

A final point is that the current UNGEGN definitions of endonym and exonym are divorced from all other aspects of natural languages. The lack of a link with the hundreds of domains that could use endonyms and exonyms has been a major weakness in the UNGEGN and WGE definitions to date.

In attempting to ameliorate the situation other definitions have been advanced. For example: Woodman (2014:13 and 15),



Jordan (2014a:27), Nyström (2014:38), Jordan (2014b:2) and Matthews (2014). None were accepted.

### 3. Matthews' Proposed Definitions

With the disquiet about, and the failure to agree on definitions, new directions may be appropriate. With this in mind, Matthews (2014:98) proposed two new definitions (and has added "or standards" to them). These are:

- (a) *a name is an **endonym** when the members of a linguistic community use or have used the name to refer to something, wherever it may be, in a written, spoken or signed mode that conforms to their language's norms or standards;* and
- (b) *a name is an **exonym** when the members of a linguistic community use or have used the name to refer to something, wherever it may be, in a written, spoken or signed mode that does not conform to their language's norms or standards.*

The above definitions apply to all "names", not just to toponyms, and it will be noticed that in applying the definitions to toponyms it states quite clearly that a toponym that is an endonym is **not** an exonym and vice versa.

The two definitions have several components which are relevant to all onomastic situations. However, here the focus is on toponyms.

- (a) **Members of a linguistic community** in applying the definitions to toponyms a toponym is simply a word in the language of a linguistic community. The *UNEGN Glossary of toponymic terminology* (in Kadmon 2000) defines linguistic community as "a group of people [i.e. the members] who communicate with relative ease in a common language or dialect". There are two ways in which endonyms and exonyms enter a linguistic community's language. First, one or more of the members bestow a name on a feature; this is an internally developed toponym in the lexicon of the bestowers, e.g. Łódź and Białystok in the Polish linguistic community and, in the English linguistic community, Mount Egmont, Young Nick's Head and Cape Kidnappers. Second, a toponym can be taken from another language without permission, right or authority, i.e. it is simply appropriated through, for example, transliteration, transcription, translation, direct entry, indirect entry (i.e. through a third language) and mistranslation; it enters the lexicon of the appropriator's language as an externally sourced toponymic endonym or, occasionally, as an exonym. It cannot be overemphasized that most of the toponyms in every language are in their origin externally sourced toponymic endonyms.
- (b) **Used or have used** Toponyms always have an implicit time dimension and this should be identified when appropriate. In other words, the phrase "use or have used" incorporates the time dimensions. Thus, there are **current toponymic endonyms**, such as Rome, Bulawayo and Kuwait in English, and **historical toponymic endonyms**. The latter were current endonyms but have now either (a) fallen out of the language or (b) while still in use in many contexts, have been superseded by other toponyms, e.g. as Ceylon has been

superseded by Sri Lanka, Nyasaland by Malawi and Siam by Thailand, or (c) have changed their form over time, e.g. Cauntebrig (now Cambridge), Clehongre (Clinger) and Gernefelde (Yarnfield). All historical endonyms can be in daily use in both ordinary and specific circumstances in the English language linguistic community.

- (c) **To refer to something.** A toponym refers to something that would be considered a geographic feature. All such features can be named.
- (d) **Wherever it may be.** No matter where a feature is located once its toponym has entered a language the toponym is, with rare exceptions, an endonym. The toponym can be internally developed, i.e. have emerged from within the language itself, or can be externally sourced and appropriated into the language. Examples of externally sourced endonyms in the English linguistic community are Ouagadougou, Stellenbosch, Kolkata, Warsaw, Bangkok, Cootamundra, Buenos Aires and Whanganui.
- (e) **In a written, spoken or signed mode.** The focus of the work of UNEG N has been on the written form of toponyms.
- (f) **Conforms to their language's norms or standards.** Toponyms do not exist in isolation in a language; they are part of a language's overall structure and functioning and like the other words in a linguistic community's lexicon are



- pool of toponyms unknown to the language's speakers
- exonyms, i.e. toponyms in use in the language but which have not yet been assimilated by the language's speakers and are therefore still problematic in form and status
- endonyms that have been externally sourced by the language's speakers and have been assimilated into the language
- endonyms that have been internally developed by the language's speakers
- boundary of the linguistic community's language
- the movement of a toponym from the unknown pool, to exonym and then to assimilated toponym
- the endonymization of internally created exonyms

Diagram 1: Schematic representation of the relative number of toponyms unknown to a language's speakers, the language's endonyms, and the movement into the language of externally sourced toponyms as exonyms, i.e. those still with a problematic form in the language

dynamic rather than fixed. To be considered endonyms in the written mode both internally developed and externally sourced endonyms must, in Matthews' definitions, conform to the overall written or orthographic norms or standards of the language in which they are found. This requires establishing a base form for the toponym, e.g. the alphabet to be used; rules regarding capitalization, syllabification, script change and use of diacritics; the declination of nouns, pronouns and adjectives; and the correct case (e.g. nominative, dative, etc.), number (singular and plural) and gender (female, male and neuter). However, the base form for an externally sourced toponymic endonym is often more difficult to establish and there may be a transition period within the linguistic community when one or more forms are competing



with each other for the written norm or when the syntactic norms or standards are not clear.

Exonyms are almost always those externally sourced toponyms that have come into a language and are in use in a language but have not yet been assimilated, i.e. they have not yet fully been adjusted to the norms or standards of the assimilating language, and occasionally there may be internally created exonyms (see Diagram 1).

In contrast, once an exonym has become an assimilated toponymic endonym it has no characteristics (apart from etymological ones) which would now identify it as a word from a source language, i.e. it has become indistinguishable in its form and in the way it is used from the rest of the lexicon. In fact most people - ordinary people - are not usually aware of the situation: "a lehnwort [i.e. here, an externally sourced but now assimilated toponymic endonym] has become part of the language and is not distinguished as such by many speakers" or users of the assimilating language (Hjalason 2012).

#### 4. Exonyms and the UN

Amongst the many notes and recommendations on exonyms by UNCSGN and UNGEGN the following are significant:

- the use of exonyms should be limited (II/29);
- national geographical names authorities [should] prepare lists of exonyms currently employed, review them for possible deletions, and publish the results" (II/28 and II/35), though these lists may be of "doubtful value" (III/19); and
- in several countries there has been a tendency to increase" the number of exonyms (VIII/4).

According to the United Nations Statistical Division, "time has, however, shown that the initial ambitious attempts to rapidly decrease the number of exonyms were over-optimistic and not possible to realize in the intended way. The reason would appear to be that many exonyms have become common words in a language and can be seen as part of the language's cultural heritage" (Internet 1 and II/28, IX/4, VIII/1 and VIII/9) and are endonyms.

It must be emphasized that here is a key difference between the current UN definitions and Matthews' definitions. Matthews is of the view that once a toponym has entered the language of the linguistic community and has been endonymized there is no difference between this new word and an internally developed endonym in their use of the language. On the other hand, those who accept the current UNGEGN definitions are generally of the view that if the toponym has not originated in the area where the language is spoken then it is an exonym.

#### 5. Exonyms and Standards

Little need be said about exonyms and norms or standards. The few exonyms are those toponyms that have not yet conformed to the orthographic, syntactic and phonological norms or standards

of the language into which they have been appropriated by the linguistic community's members.

#### 6. Exonyms and Standardization

Toponymic exonyms are those externally sourced toponyms that have not yet been assimilated. How do exonyms relate to the UN aim of standardization which is viewed as "311(a) 'the establishment, by an appropriate authority, of a set of standards or norms, e.g. for the uniform rendering of toponyms'; and '311 (b) 'rendering an item such as a toponym in accordance with such norms'. Here, standardization is viewed as the work of governmental names authorities. However, investigation of "standardization" shows that this is a very limited view.

A linguistic community has a set of toponyms, formed from both internally evolved and externally sourced endonyms and exonyms that can be termed the linguistic community's toponymic set. What happens in the real world, the world of human activities away from state authorities? Is there no standardization in the absence of "an appropriate authority"? In reality toponyms are standardized over the centuries, even before writing began, by common usage in people's daily intercourse as manifest: in various historical "documents" such as scrolls, clay tablets and gravestone inscriptions; in atlases, gazetteers and encyclopedias; by the media of journals, newspapers, gazettes, radio and television; by the entertainment world of film and theatre; in literature such as novels and poems; by the world of the internet (Facebook, email, Twitter and Wiki this and that); by governments; and in conversation. This is recognized by the UN: "157: Standard language: the form of speech and/or writing of a language or... in the absence of such ...[a standardizing] authority, which is generally accepted as correct in a linguistic community". Trask (1999:161) writes that "very commonly, a language 'just grows': it develops and changes in response to countless small decisions made more or less unconsciously by its speakers". Toponyms are part of this gradual process and without their de facto standardization in each language there would be toponymic chaos everywhere.

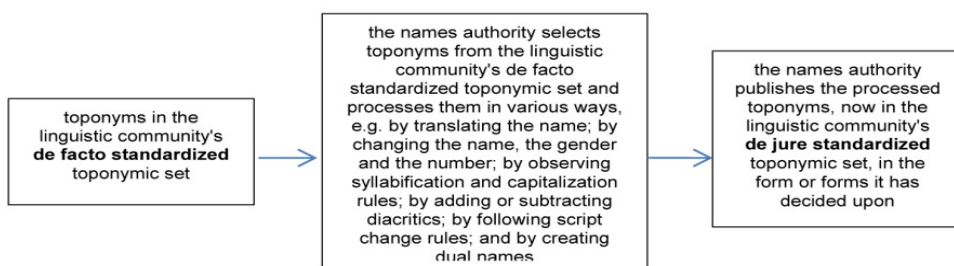


Diagram 1: From de facto standardization to de jure standardization: the role of a names authority

The question then arises as to what term can be used to refer to toponyms that exist as a consequence of the work of names authorities? For the written forms arrived at by state names authorities it would seem most apposite to apply the term "de jure standardization" to them, i.e. standardization is according to law, the law that states legislate about their and other toponyms. The names authority may aim to deal with all de facto toponyms and exonyms or may choose to confine itself to certain toponyms, e.g. only major features. Trask (1999:161), writes "But it is perfectly



possible, and in some circumstances necessary, for the future of a language to be determined in important aspects by deliberate, self-conscious decisions, often made on an official basis", while Crystal (1999:190) writes language "corpus planning deals with the selection and codification of norms, as in the writing of grammars and the standardization of spelling".

## 8. Conclusion

In conclusion Jordan's 2009 question can now be answered, but in two parts. First, why have not clear definitions of endonym and exonym been developed? It is clear that the debate about the meaning of these terms is a linguistic issue linked to natural language processes including those processes by which both internally created and externally sourced names are assimilated by the members of a linguistic community into their language as endonyms. In each language at any one time a small number of toponyms will not conform to the orthographic, syntactic and phonological norms or standards of the language; these are exonyms. Second, two types of standardization are identified: de facto standardization which takes place naturally within a

linguistic community over the centuries, and de jure standardization, which is the consequence of specific acts by a names authority. The names authority's members have no need to know whether a toponym is an endonym or an exonym as all the names authority does is take some or all of the linguistic community's de facto standardized toponyms and its exonyms and convert both types into the linguistic community's de jure standardized toponymic set.

With these new definitions names authorities work almost entirely with endonyms, but this is beside the point as their work is about de jure standardization, not about the linguistic classification of toponyms into endonyms and exonyms. Nothing is lost if names authorities ignore the endonym-exonym debate and abandon their involvement in it.

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# Practice of Exonyms use on Egypt

This article is an edited version of a paper presented at Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms, 28-30 April 2010 - Tainach- Austria

In this article, I discuss exonym use in Egypt from different viewpoints, the historical background about the reasons why exonyms exist, the practice of exonym use for Egyptian place names in other languages, the practice of exonyms use for foreign place names in Arabic and finally a discussion on the definition of Endonyms and Exonyms.

## 1. Historical Background:

**Egypt has a 7000 year old record of civilization, known as the "Mother land of the world", the "Land of civilizations", and the "Greatest power in Human History"**<sup>1</sup>.

Egypt has a unique location, in the middle of the world. It has a great atmosphere and is full of natural resources. This has had a great impact on establishing communications with other nations through trade, as well as it has made Egypt a target for occupation from various Empires. Nations have been influenced by them and they have been influenced by Empires, As Dr. Jamal Hamdan said in his book "Personality of Egypt", " Egypt is unique among the Arab countries, but its geographical location gives it more uniqueness and salience, it is like a heart of the body, and center of the nucleuse, and the link between Asia and Africa, as the famous Napoleon Bonaparte stated **"Egypt is the heart of the world, who can occupy it dominates the whole world"**."

The history of Egypt is categorized into several successive historical eras. They are Pharaonic Era, Greek Era, Roman Era, Coptic Era, Islamic Era, and Modern Era<sup>1</sup>. Through those eras the Egyptian spoken language has developed from Old Egyptian, Middle Egyptian, Late Egyptian, Greek, Demotic, Coptic, Arabic and also Egyptian literary language from Egyptian hieroglyphs, Hieratic, Demotic, Greek, Coptic, Arabic<sup>2</sup>. Refer to Fig(1)

Throughout Egypt's history many of the current Egyptian place names were borrowed from other languages such as the old Egyptian Language, Greek, Latin, Coptic and finally Arabic.

First of all is the name of the country which has two allonyms Egypt and Misr.

### Egypt:

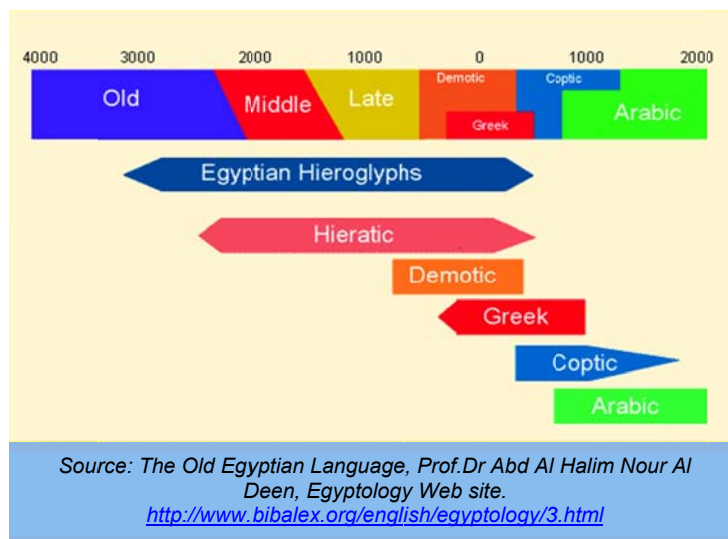
Egypt as known in the Covenant Pharaonic names as "Kimt", which means the black earth to distinguish it from the yellow desert and red mountain and "Thmira" or "Thamir" which means the fertile black earth.

"Ḥ a - Ka – Peta ḥ ", " ha - ka – ptaḥ ", "Hiko Ptah" or "Kuptaḥ " are the names given to Egypt and the city of Memphis, which

<sup>1</sup> Source: Egypt state information service Web : <http://www.sis.gov.eg/En>

<sup>2</sup> Source: The Old Egyptian Language, Prof.Dr Abd Al Halim Nour Al Deen, Egyptology Web site. <http://www.bibalex.org/english/egyptology/3.html>

Fig. 1



means a palace or land of the god Ptah or spirit of God Ptah, who is the Egyptian beloved God famous for industry and arts .

The Greeks could not pronounce the letter " Ḥ " on the first and end of the word " Ḥ a - Ka – Peta ḥ " so they omitted both from the word and converted "k" to "g" and added syllable "oç" at the end. However, this was difficult to pronounce so they added the letter "A" in the beginning of the word to facilitate pronunciation. Therefore, the word became "Aἰγυπτος" which is pronounced "Egiptūs" then they transferred the name to the rest of Europe with the excision syllable "oç" section to be Egypt in Latin, Égypte in French, Egypt In English.

Through Arab migration to Egypt they transferred the name to the Arabic language, which influenced by the environment, since life in the Sahara makes the language more powerful and more rigorous the letter "k" has been emphasize by the letter "ق"Q, "t" to "ط", so that the final name has become "قبط" Copts pronounced "Qibt" a resident of Egypt was therefore called "قبطى" Coptic, pronounced "Qibṭy".

### Misr:

Dr. / Abdel-Halim Nour El Deen one of the leading archaeologists in the world, mentions in his book (The effects and civilization of ancient Egypt c.1) that " The name Miṣr may have an ancient Egyptian origin, and that since the fourteenth century BC, Egypt had variant names which are pronounced as follow, Acadian language: Misry, Assyrian language: Mishry, Babylonian language: Misr, the Phoenician language: Masour, the old Arabic language: Misru, Hebrew: Mishraim. This means that Egypt was known since the early nomenclature of the word close to current Endonym Misr, which has ancient Egyptian origin word "Magar" or "Mishr", which means the Sheltered or



Fortified. The word indicates the fact that Egypt is fully naturally protected from danger because of its borders which are difficult to cross including the sea in both the north and the east and deserts in both the east and the south".

As for the origin of the word from the viewpoint of religions and holy books, we find the biblical story about the grandson of the Prophet Noah "Mashraim" who inhabited ancient Egypt.

From an Arab point of view it means the well-known big city which has civilization<sup>3</sup>.

## Al Iskandariyyah (Alexandria):

Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in the year 332 BC and expelled them out of Egypt. Then, he crowned himself as a king in the Pharaonic style and founded a new capital for Egypt named after him as "Alexandria". Then Arabs, to facilitate pronunciation, they called it "Al Iskandariyyah" because the Arabic language does not have similar letter pronounced like "X" they converted "X" to "sk".

For More Information refer to The Bibliotheca Alexandrina - Egyptology web site

<http://www.bibalex.org/english/egyptology/3.html>

## 2. The use of exonyms for Egyptian place names in other languages:

I started my research by exploring different official and commercial sources, and I found that most of them preferred using transcription or translation methods rather than the transliteration method that is used only by official and commercial map producers, who also do not use the unified Arabic Romanization system.

As a result of this, the same place has various Allonyms depending on the receiver language, the method of language conversion and the person who makes the conversion.

The following are some of observed changes that happen during the conversion process:

- Removing the article Al from names like Suez, Matroh.
- Making the following conversions for Arabic letters that do not have similar letters in Latin ("ض" to "d", "ح" to "H", "خ" to "Kh", "غ" to "Gh", "ظ" to "t", "ظ" to "Z" ..... ) like Helwan
- Translation of the whole name like The Red Sea, New Valley or generic term only like South Sinai, Nile River
- Transcription from other languages sources like 6 October.
- Using different combinations of letters to give the same pronunciation like "Bani Souwaif - Bani Swaif - Bani Suef".
- Using letter g or j for names including Arabic letter "ج" because Egyptian pronounced Arabic letter "ج" as "g" in

“Arabs use transcription or translation methods for language conversions”

word "good" but in Arabic the letter "ج" pronounced as "j" only. Ex Giza, Jizah.

- Preserve the well-known cities' historical name like Alexandria, Cairo, Luxor, Damietta, Port Said, Suez.
- For examples refer to Table (1), fig(2)

Fig (2) Google maps



Source Google Maps, WEB: <http://maps.google.com>

## 3. Practice on Arabic exonyms use of foreign place names:

Arabs use transcription or translation methods for language conversions and as a result for both methods they make the following changes:

- Feminization the name by adding letter "ā" or "ah" to the end of the name.
- Add article "ال" Al to the name.
- Making the following conversions for foreign letters that have no similar letters on Arabic (v to "ف" F, g to "غ" Gh, "x" to "sk")
- Changing the pronunciation of the name as a result of translation of the whole name like "United States of America" to "Al Wilāyāt al Mottaḥedah al Amrīkiyyah", "Cabo Verde" to "Al R'as al Akḥḍar" or generic term only like "Guinea Ecuatorial" to "Ghīnyā al Istwa'īyyah".
- Omitting or adding letters to facilitate pronunciation.
- Strengthening 'light' letters like ( "t" to "ط" T, "K" to "ق" Q ).
- Transcription of the name from a language source which is not the endonym national language especially using Spanish, English, French because of occupation for both English and French occupation of Arabic countries and Arabic occupation of Spanish like in "Deutschland" to "Almānyā" which is transcribed from Spanish
- Transcription without diacritical marks like kesra, Fatha, damma which represent the vowel letters on Arabic language thus resulting on various pronunciation of the word.
- Refer to Table (2) some examples of countries exonyms.

<sup>3</sup> Mukhtar Al Sihah "Abd Al Qadir Al Razy 1904 –Cairo-General authority for prince publications



#### 4. Discussion on the definition of Endonym and Exonym:

According to The definitions of exonym and endonym<sup>4</sup>

- Exonym: Name used in a specific language for a → geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is widely spoken, and differing in its form from the respective → Endonym(s) in the area where the geographical feature is situated.
- Endonym: Name of a → geographical feature in an official or well established language occurring in that area where the feature is situated.

In Egypt we use in parallel way The Modern Standard Arabic Language (MSA) as a Literary official language beside Egyptian colloquial language as spoken language which has multiple dialects causing variant pronunciations of the same toponym, beside that most of the current Egyptian place name are borrowed from other languages, as I previously said. What is Endonym and Exonym in both cases?

Those previous definitions are not clearly identified I think they need to be more specific.

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<sup>4</sup> The Glossary of Terms for the Standardization of Geographical Names: Addendum (UN document ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/85/Add.1, 07-60262, dated 16 November 2007).  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/glossary\\_add/glossary\\_add\\_e.pdf](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/glossary_add/glossary_add_e.pdf)

**Table (1) : List of English names of Egypt's governorates from various Official sources**

Arabic Name	Arabic Romanized Endonym	CAPMAS Central Agency for public mobilization and statistics	IDSC Information decision support centre	(EIP), Egypt's Information Portal	Egypt state Information service
القاهرة	Al Qāhirah	Cairo	Cairo	Cairo	Cairo
الإسكندرية	Al Iskandariyyah	Alexandria	Alexandria	Alexandria	Alexandria
بورسعيد	Būr Sa'īd	Port Said	Port -Said	Port Said	Port Said
السويس	As Suways	Suez	Suez	Suez	Suez
حلوان	Ḥilwān	Helwan	Helwan	Helwan	Helwan
6 أكتوبر	Sitta Uktūbar	6 October	6th October	6th October	6th of October
دمياط	Dumyāṭ	Damietta	Damietta	Damietta	Damietta
الدقهلية	Ad Daqahliyyah	Dakahlia	Dakahliya	Dakahleyia	Daqahliya
الشرقية	Ash Sharqiyyah	Sharkia	Sharkia	Sharkeya	Sharqiya
القليوبية	Al Qalyūbiyyah	Kalyoubia	Kalyobia	Qalyubiya	Qalioubiya
كفر الشيخ	Kafr ash Shaykh	Kafr El Sheikh	Kafr El Sheikh	Kafr El Sheikh	Kafr el Sheikh
الغربية	Al Gharbiyyah	Gharbia	Gharbeya	Gharbeyia	Gharbiya
المنوفية	Al Munūfiyyah	Menoufia	Monofiya	Menofya	Monofiya
البحيرة	AL Biḥīrah	Behera	El -Beheira	El Behera	El Beheira
الإسماعيلية	Al Ismā'īliyyah	Ismailia	Ismailia	Ismailia	Ismailia
الجيزة	Al Jīzah	Giza	Giza	Giza	Giza
بنى سويف	Banī Suwayf	Beni Suef	Bani Souwaif	Bani Swaif	Bani Suef
الفيوم	Al Fayyūm	Fayoum	Fayoum	Fayoum	Fayyoun
المنيا	Al Minyā	Menia	Menia	Menia	Minya
أسيوط	Asyūṭ	Asyout	Assiut	Assiut	Asuit
سوهاج	Sūhaj	Suhag	Sohag	Souhag	Sohag
قنا	Qinā	Qena	Qena	Qena	Qena
أسوان	Aswān	Aswan	Aswan	Aswan	Aswan
الأقصر	Al Uqṣur	Luxur	Luxor	Luxor	Luxor
البحر الأحمر	AL Baḥr al Aḥmar	Red Sea	The Red Sea	Red Sea	Red Sea
الوادي الجديد	Al Wādī al Jadīd	El Wadi El Gidid	New Valley	New Valley	New Valley
مطروح	Maṭrūḥ	Matrouh	Matrouh	Matrouh	Matroh
شمال سيناء	Shamāl Sīnā'	North Sinai	North Sinai	North Sinai	North Sinai
جنوب سيناء	Janūb Sīnā'	South Sinai	South Sinai	South Sinai	South Sinai



Table (2) : List of Arabic Exonyms of Countries short National official Endonym

National Official Language	Romanized Endonym	Arabic Exonym	Arabic-Romanized	Conversion Method
English	United States Of America	الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية	Al Wilāyāt al Mottaḥedah al Amrīkiyyah	Translation
German	Österreich	النمسا	An Nimsā	
Greek	Ellás	اليونان	Al Yūnān	
German	Deutschland	المانيا	Almānyā	Transcription of the Spanish Name
French	France	فرنسا	Faransā	Feminization
Albanian	Shqipëria	ألبانيا	Al Banyā	Transcription of the English name
Portuguese	Angola	أنغولا	Anghūlā	Transcription of the English name G to gh
English	Antigua and Barbuda	أنٹیگوا و بربودا	Antighwā Wa Barbūdā	Transcription of the English name G to gh, and to wa
Spanish	Argentina (la)	الأرجنتين	Al Arjantīn	Omitting "a", adding the article Al To the name
German	Belgien	بلجيكا	Biljīkā	Transcription of the Spanish name
Dzongkha	Druk Yul	بوتان	Būtān	Transcription of the Spanish name
Spanish	Bolivia	بوليفيا	Būlīfyā	Transcription of the Spanish name V to F
French	Burkina (le)	بوركنينا فاسو	Būrkinā fāsū	Transcription of the English name
Portuguese	Cabo Verde	الرأس الأخضر	Al R'as al Akhḍar	Translation
French	République centrafricaine (la)	جمهورية أفريقيا الوسطى	Jumhūriyyat Afrīqyā al Wūṣṭā	Translation
Chinese	Zhongguo	الصين	As Ṣīn	Transcription of the English name+add AL, ch to ص
Croatian	Hrvatska	كرواتيا	kurwātyā	Transcription of the English name
Estonian	Eesti	إستونيا	Istūnyā	Transcription of the English name
Swedish	Finland	فنلندا	Finlandā	Feminization
Georgian	Sak'art'velo	جورجيا	Jūrjīyā	Transcription of the English name
Italian	Santa Sede (la)	الكرسي الرسولي	Al Kursī ar Rasūlī	Translation
Hungarian	Magyarország	هنغاريا	Hanghāryā	Transcription of the English name + feminization
Icelandic	Ísland	آيسلندا	Ayislandā	Feminization
Hindi	Bhārat	الهند	Al Hīnd	Transcription of the English name
Italian	Italia (l')	إيطاليا	Itālyā	T to ط + feminization
Japanese	Nihon, or Nippon	اليابان	Al Yābān	Transcription of the English name + adding the article Al
Spanish	Guinea Ecuatorial	غينيا الاستوائية	Ghīnyā al Istwa'iyyah	Transcription of the English name + transilation of the generic term + G to Gh,
Estonian	Eesti	إستونيا	Istūnyā	Transcription of the English name
Serbian	Crna Gora	الجبل الأسود	Al Jabal al Aswad	Translation
Latvian	Latvija	لاتيفيا	Latīfyā	V to f
Sesotho	Lesotho	ليسوتو	lisūtū	Transcription of the English name
Maltese	Malta	مالطة	Malṭah	T to ط
Dutch	Nederland	هولندا	Hūlandā	Transcription of the English name+ Feminization
Swedish	Sverige	السويد	As Sūwayd	Transcription of the English name + adding the article Al +ommit n
Thai	Prathet Thai	تايلاند	Tāylānd	Transcription of the English name
Turkish	Türkiye	تركيا	Turkyā	Feminization

Note: The source of the first three columns is the UNGEgn List of Country names





Title	Website/Bibliography
Egyptian National Railways	<a href="http://www.egypttrail.gov.eg/docs/index.html">http://www.egypttrail.gov.eg/docs/index.html</a>
Central Agency For Public Mobilization And Statistics	<a href="http://www.capmas.gov.eg/">http://www.capmas.gov.eg/</a>
Academy of the Arabic Language	<a href="http://www.arabicacademy.org.eg/FrontEnd/marsom.aspx">http://www.arabicacademy.org.eg/FrontEnd/marsom.aspx</a>
Egypt's Information Portal (EIP),	<a href="http://www.eip.gov.eg/Directories/Directory.aspx?id=6">http://www.eip.gov.eg/Directories/Directory.aspx?id=6</a>
Egypt state information service	<a href="http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Story.aspx?sid=6">http://www.sis.gov.eg/En/Story.aspx?sid=6</a>
IDSC (Information decision support centre)	<a href="http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/guide/governorsAll.aspx">http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/guide/governorsAll.aspx</a>
Egyptian Geography Network	<a href="http://www.egn.gov.eg/Portal/ptk">http://www.egn.gov.eg/Portal/ptk</a>
Egyptian Survey Authority	<a href="http://www.portal.esa.gov.eg/Portal">http://www.portal.esa.gov.eg/Portal</a>
Center for Documentation of Cultural and Natural Heritage(CULNAT)	<a href="http://www.culnat.org">http://www.culnat.org</a>
Egypt Air	<a href="http://www.egyptair.com/English/Pages/splashpage.aspx">http://www.egyptair.com/English/Pages/splashpage.aspx</a>
The Digital Assets Repository (DAR)	<a href="http://dar.bibalex.org/#HomePage">http://dar.bibalex.org/#HomePage</a>
USA National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA)	<a href="http://geonames.nga.mil/ggmaviewer/MainFrameSet.asp">http://geonames.nga.mil/ggmaviewer/MainFrameSet.asp</a>
The Digital Assets Repository (DAR) is a system developed at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina	<a href="http://dar.bibalex.org/#HomePage">http://dar.bibalex.org/#HomePage</a>
Geonames.de	<a href="http://www.geonames.de/">http://www.geonames.de/</a>
Personality Of Egypt	Dr Gamal Hemdan –publisher Dar El Helal
(The effects of ancient Egypt on civilization c.1)	Dr. / Abdel-Halim Nour El Deen
Egyptology	<a href="http://www.bibalex.org/english/egyptology/3.html">http://www.bibalex.org/english/egyptology/3.html</a>
The Arabic Language Gazetteers	<a href="http://www.arabicacademy.org.eg/FrontEnd/DictionarySearch.aspx">http://www.arabicacademy.org.eg/FrontEnd/DictionarySearch.aspx</a>
The global Egyptian Museum	<a href="http://www.globalegyptianmuseum.org/">http://www.globalegyptianmuseum.org/</a>
Wikipedia	<a href="http://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/">http://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/</a>

## Dealing with exonyms in Slovenia

### 1. Introduction

Slovenians constitute a small nation: together with the officially recognized Slovenian minorities in Italy, Austria, and Hungary, and other ethnic Slovenians around the world, they number barely 2.5 million. Nonetheless, Slovenian is a language that can be compared to the most prominent world languages in every aspect. The Freising manuscripts are the oldest known and preserved document in Slovenian and the oldest Latin-script text in any Slavic language, which, according to paleographic analysis, was created between 972 and 1039. The first books printed in Slovenian, *Catechismus* and *Abecedarium*, used to teach Slovenians how to read, were written in 1550 by the Protestant priest and translator Primož Trubar (1508–1586).

Until Slovenia's independence in 1991, Slovenians did not have their own state and were part of multi-ethnic Yugoslavia (1918–1991), Austria-Hungary (1867–1918), and Austria and its Habsburg rulers before that (from the thirteenth century onwards), but they nonetheless developed their language in a fairly unhindered manner, despite the fact that Slovenian ethnic territory in the Eastern Alps continued to shrink gradually.

Despite coexisting with other ethnic groups in larger states, or perhaps precisely because of this, Slovenians preserved active contacts with other ethnic groups in central Europe. Therefore, Slovenian exonyms for many major cities outside Slovenian ethnic territory developed relatively early on. Some have already sunken into oblivion and are only remembered as archaic exonyms, but the majority of them continue to be in active use and have become a constituent part of Slovenian alongside Slovenian designations for many other important geographical features.

More than by geographers and other geographical name specialists, who are aware of the restrictions in the use of exonyms imposed by UN resolutions, their use is primarily promoted by linguists because, due to their required inflection (declension, expressing definiteness, gender, and number, and adjectival gradation), these types of names are subject to Slovenian normative rules and hence changes to them are continuously being thoroughly discussed.

### 2. A brief review of the study of Slovenian exonyms

The attested use of Slovenian exonyms in journalism is based on over two centuries of practice, and their cartographic use is based on a tradition going back a century and a half. Considering the lack of normative rules at that time on writing proper names, and especially names of foreign origin, it is not surprising that the initial use of Slovenianized foreign geographical names was fairly irregular, which was reflected in a large number of alternative names or allonyms. With their general use in all social strata, exonyms have become an inseparable part of Slovenian and thereby also an important part of cultural heritage. Although the use of exonyms is

currently inconsistent, analysis of the collected material has shown that the differences are slowly decreasing.

The geographer Anton Melik was the first to systematically draw attention to problems in writing foreign toponyms in 1928. This was followed by quite a long pause, which was finally ended in 1969 by another geographer, Jakob Medved. His article was written in connection with his editorial work on the 1972 *Veliki atlas sveta* (Great World Atlas), which was published by *Mladinska knjiga* as the first commercial atlas using the cartographic bases of the Geographical Projects in London and Germany's Bertelsmann Cartographic Institute. In it, the translator and coeditor Janko Moder published the first extensive research article on exonyms in Slovenia, typifying exonyms by their method of Slovenianization.

During the 1990s, the study of exonyms intensified, which coincided with Slovenia's independence and closer contacts within UNGEGN and its Working Group on Exonyms. Several seminal works with detailed definitions of the linguistic, historical, and social aspects of Slovenianizing foreign geographical names and a presentation of the international and domestic bodies responsible for this were published. These were accompanied by contributions on the phonetic Slovenianization of foreign geographical names and appropriate Romanization of names originally written in non-Roman writing systems. An article analyzing the suitability of the selection of foreign geographical names in the *Slovenski pravopis* (Slovenian Normative Guide, 2001) was published. The first in-depth analyses of knowledge of Slovenian exonyms within the Slovenian professional community were conducted in addition to a comparative analysis of the characteristics of using exonyms in selected European languages.

### 3. Research projects on exonyms

From February 2008 until the end of January 2011, the project Slovene Exonyms: Methodology, Standardization, GIS was carried out at the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute. This was the first research project on exonyms that took place in Slovenia or the former Yugoslavia. The corpus of the most frequently used Slovenian exonyms was systematically processed as part of this project, providing the basis for their greatly needed standardization.

The *Gazetteer of Slovenian Exonyms*, with over 5,000 exonyms processed in detail and collected from more than 50,000 documented various forms of these types of geographical names, constitutes only a small part of the body of national gazetteers that can be constantly added to and used to draw information on the current state of use of Slovenian exonyms. In the event of the potential extinction of exonyms, this gazetteer will help preserve the attested forms of their former use. Hence, this project is of great importance in terms of preserving and evaluating the extensive Slovenian linguistic heritage.

“... exonyms have become an inseparable part of Slovenian and thereby also an important part of cultural heritage.”

“In the event of the potential extinction of exonyms, ... The Gazetteer of Slovenian Exonyms....will help preserve the attested forms of their former use.”



We collected exonyms from all important Slovenian world atlases and also added the relevant names from the *Veliki splošni leksikon* (Great General Encyclopedia, 1997 and 1998) and *Slovenski pravopis* (Slovenian Normative Guide, 2001). With the “rebirth” of Cigale’s almost forgotten *Atlant* (Atlas, 1869–1877), Slovenian atlas literature has a tradition that goes back nearly a century and a half. *Atlant* was the first Slovenian world atlas, in which many geographical names were already given in forms consistent with modern solutions. After this, nearly a century passed until a new general world atlas was published in Slovenia: Medved’s *Veliki atlas sveta* (Great World Atlas) of 1972. Several school atlases were published in the meantime, the majority of which (Orožen 1902; Visintin 1941; Šolski atlas 1959) were studied due to the developmental aspects of Slovenianizing foreign geographical names. With Slovenia’s independence, the publication of atlases was in full swing, which continued into the first decade of the twenty-first century. We collected the exonyms from *Atlas sveta* (World Atlas, 1991), *Veliki družinski atlas sveta* (Great World Atlas, 1992), *Atlas 2000* (1997), *Geografski atlas za osnovno šolo* (Primary School Geographical Atlas, 1998), *Družinski atlas sveta* (Family World Atlas, 2002), *Geografski atlas sveta za šole* (School World Atlas, 2002), *Veliki šolski atlas* (Great School Atlas, 2003), *Priročni atlas sveta* (Pocket World Atlas, 2003), *Atlas sveta za osnovne in srednje šole* (Primary and Secondary School World Atlas, 2005), and *Veliki atlas sveta* (Great World Atlas, 2005).

The gazetteer only includes foreign geographical names that were Slovenianized in writing (i.e., exographs). Phonetically Slovenianized foreign geographical names that differ from the original form in the source language only by a different pronunciation adapted to the target language (i.e., exophones) were deliberately excluded. Typical examples of Slovenian exophones are, for instance, *Argentina*, *Madrid*, *London*, and *Moskva* ‘Moscow’.

A comparative analysis was used to eliminate unsystematic forms that were only used in individual cases and have not become generally established. They could merely be the result of non-critical editorial Slovenianization of the majority of

geographical names in a given source. We intentionally retained the majority of names of undersea features. In addition, we added certain other frequently used exonyms, among which the names of historical settlements, historical regions, and certain other archaic features are the most important. We also intentionally included the most important archaic exonyms in the collection, such as *Florenca* ‘Florence’, *Kelmorajn* ‘Cologne’, *Monakovo* ‘Munich’, and *Solnograd* ‘Salzburg’, for which we believe it is worth preserving the memory of their once exceptional communicative value, which is to some extent still used in their generally known adjectival derivatives such as *florentinski* and *solnograški*.

Based on a comparative analysis and the incorporation of historical exonyms, we prepared a spreadsheet with a total of 5,038 names, among which many are polysemous. In this spreadsheet, all of the Slovenianized foreign geographical names included were systematically processed in thirty-four fields.

The spreadsheet’s content is presented in the table below using the example of four selected exonyms (*Albertovo jezero* ‘Lake Albert’, *Aljaska* ‘Alaska’, *Amazonka* ‘Amazon River’, and *Arabska puščava* ‘Eastern Desert’). In addition to the basic linguistic and geographical facts connected with individual exonyms, the “expanded spreadsheet” also features the exonymization type, exonym status, its recommended use, any alternative exonyms, the names used in the nine most representative Slovenian world atlases and other important sources, and the names used in the five main world languages and the languages of Slovenia’s three neighboring countries. The exonyms’ etymology was systematically processed and is presented separately; a more detailed understanding of the names’ origin contributed to the final forms of the names being as suitable as possible.

Table: Fields in the “expanded spreadsheet” with illustrative examples of selected exonyms starting with A (note: for layout reasons, the entries in the table are arranged so that the selected exonyms are listed horizontally and the various fields vertically).

Table: Fields in the “expanded spreadsheet” with illustrative examples of selected exonyms starting with A (note: for layout reasons, the entries in the table are arranged so that the selected exonyms are listed horizontally and the various fields vertically).

ID	95	114	132	241
Slovenian exonym	<b>Albertovo jezero</b>	<b>Aljaska</b>	<b>Amazonka</b>	<b>Arabska puščava</b>
Genitive	Albertovega jezera	Aljaske	Amazonke	Arabske puščave
Adjective form	albertovojezerski	aljaški	amazonski	arabskopuščavski
Endonym	Lake Albert / Lac Albert / Albert Nyanza	Alaska	Rio Amazonas / Rio Solimões	Aş Şahrā ash Sharqīyah
Language	English/French/Swahili	English	Portuguese	Arabic
Location (continent, ocean)	Africa	North America	South America	Africa
Location (county, sea)	Uganda / Democratic Republic of the Congo	United States of America	Peru/Brazil	Egypt
Semantic type	land hydronym	administrative unit / natural landscape	land hydronym	natural landscape
Latitude	1° 41′ 57″ N	63° 35′ 20″ N	0° 23′ 1″ N	26° 13′ 31″ N
Longitude	30° 57′ 28″ E	154° 29′ 35″ W	50° 5′ 37″ W	33° 32′ 35″ E
Exonymization type	J	F	I	G





Status	non-standardized	non-standardized	non-standardized	non-standardized
Recommended use	recommended	necessary	necessary	recommended
Alternative exonym	–	–	–	Vzhodna puščava
Cigale's <i>Atlas</i> (1869–1877)	Mvutan Jezero	Aljaška	Amazonska reka	–
Orožen's <i>School Atlas</i> (1902)	–	Aljaška	Amazonski veletok	Arabska puščava
De Agostini <i>School Atlas</i> (1941)	Albertovo jezero	–	Amazonas	–
Medved's <i>Great World Atlas</i> (1972)	Albertovo jezero	–	Amazonka	–
<i>Great Family World Atlas</i> (1992, 1996)	Albertovo jezero	Aljaska	Amazonka	Arabska puščava
<i>Atlas 2000</i> (1997)	Albertovo jezero	Aljaska	Amazonka	Arabska puščava
Monde Neuf (2003)	Albertovo jezero	Aljaska	Amazonka	Arabska puščava
Mladinska Knjiga <i>School Atlas</i> (2005)	Albertovo jezero	Aljaska	Amazonka	Arabska puščava
<i>Great World Atlas</i> (2005)	Albertovo jezero	Aljaska	Amazonka	Vzhodna puščava
Other	–	–	–	–
English name	Lake Albert	endonym	Amazon River	Eastern Desert
French name	Lac Albert	like endonym	Amazone	Désert Arabique
German name	Albertsee	like endonym	Amazonas	Arabische Wüste
Spanish name	Lago Alberto	like endonym	Río Amazonas	Desierto árabe
Russian name	ozero Al'bert	Aljaska	Amazonka	Arabijskaja pustinja
Italian name	Lago Alberto	like endonym	Rio delle Amazoni	Desierto orientale
Croatian name	Albertovo jezero	Aljaska	Amazonka	Istočna pustinja / Arabijska pustinja
Hungarian name	Albert-tó	Alaszka	Amazonas	Arab-sivatag
Etymology (in full table only in Slovenian)	In 1864, the British explorer Samuel Baker named the lake after Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert (1819–1861).	The name derives from the Aleut name <i>Alaxsxaq</i> 'great country', which was written as <i>Aljaskat</i> on the first Russian maps.	The river is named after the mythological Amazons, whom the local Indian tribes reminded the early explorers of.	The original Arabic name means 'eastern desert'.
Notes (in full table only in Slovenian)	In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, this lake was formerly named Lac Mobutu Sese Seko.	–	Rio Solimões is the Brazilian name for the part of the river between the Peruvian-Brazilian border and the confluence with its longest left tributary, the Rio Negro.	The name <i>Arabska puščava</i> is also used to refer to the desert area of the Arabian Peninsula.

The bilateral project *A Comparative Analysis of Croatian and Slovenian Exonyms* was carried out from May 2014 to the end of 2015. Its aim and course are presented in detail in the Croatian report by our Croatian colleague, Ivana Crljenko.

#### 4. Main publications about Slovenian exonyms

In addition to a fairly large number of articles on Slovenian exonyms published in research journals and volumes in Slovenia and abroad, several volumes, all published in the twenty-first century alone, need to be highlighted. The two Slovenian-only publications *Pogledi na podomačevanje tujih*

*zemljepisnih imen* (A Review of the Slovenization of Foreign Geographical Names; <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sl/publikacije/pogledi-na-podomačevanje-tujih-zemljepisnih-imen#v>; <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/9789612540098.pdf>) and *Podomačena tuja zemljepisna imena v slovenskih atlasih sveta* (Adapted Exonyms in Slovenian World Atlases; <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sl/publikacije/podomačena-tuja-zemljepisna-imena-v-slovenskih-atlasih-sveta#v>; <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/9789612540265.pdf>) were published first. They were both written by Drago Kladnik. In 2013, that same author published the book *Slovenski eksonimi* (Slovenian Exonyms) together with five coauthors and the publication



*Slovenska imena držav* (Slovenian County Names) in coauthorship with Drago Perko a year later. These two volumes were also published in Slovenian only, but a summary of their findings was translated into English and is available online not only to those that read Slovenian, but others as well. A brief summary of both is presented below.

## 4.1 Slovenian Exonyms

Based on a table containing somewhat more than 5,000 exonyms, a list of the most frequently used names, which are presented in this research volume, has been prepared. It became an important reference resource that can be used for textbooks, research and discussion papers, other articles, and Slovenian normative guides, and by anyone interested in this issue. It facilitates copyeditors' work and makes it more efficient.

The volume (<http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sl/publikacije/slovenski-eksonimi#v>; <http://giam2.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/9789612544126.pdf>) has three parts. Part one contains theoretical and methodological reflections on exonyms, with an emphasis on explaining basic concepts, the use of exonyms, and gathering and selecting them to design a collection of exonyms, and it presents an analysis of their frequency. It concludes with two chapters that serve as links to the other two parts of the volume. The first presents the format of the table in detail. This table, with a list of the most frequently used exonyms (3,818), comprises the second part of the book and is supplemented by a table with a list of over 350 of the most established alternative exonyms. The third part of the volume contains maps with exonyms from the table in part two, arranged by part of the world and divided according to semantic type of exonym.

## 4.2 Slovenian Country Names

Country names are among the rare foreign geographical names that are standardized in Slovenian. It was geographers that first responded to international recommendations on systematizing the treatment of country names. They strove to standardize geographical names as early as the 1980s and came into conflict with linguists in the standardization of country names. This disagreement ended only in the first decade of the twenty-first century, when the Subcommittee for Country Names, comprised of geographers and linguists, prepared a new proposal for appropriate names for countries, with the intention that it also be used in the Slovenian normative guide and the SIST ISO 3166 standard.

In this volume (<http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/sl/publikacije/slovenska-imena-drzav#v>; <http://giam2.zrc-sazu.si/sites/default/files/9789612544546.pdf>), in addition to the Slovenian short and full names of individual political territorial units, the genitive, locative, and adjectival forms of the short names, and native short and full forms transliterated into the Roman alphabet (if applicable) or English and French official short and full names of individual territorial political communities, there are also coded labels, an etymological explanation of the names, notes if relevant, any alternative names, archaic names, nicknames, and demonyms.

The book is organized into three sections. The first is a theoretical and methodological discussion of exonyms, and it also presents the reasons for selected name forms for independent countries and dependent territories. Certain names whose usage is not uniform are presented in greater detail. The second part, in tabular format, is a detailed presentation of the names of 198 independent countries and fifty-one dependencies, or other areas of special geopolitical interest contained in ISO 3166-1 with a high degree of autonomy. The third section is cartographic and presents territorial political units on colored maps with borders.

## 5. Other important links featuring Slovenian exonyms

A webpage of the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute provides a full spreadsheet in English with 1,044 exonyms presented with thirty-five fields: <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/en/zbirka/geographical-names#v>; then click TABLE OF EXONYMS

A webpage of the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute provides English introductory notes for the entire spreadsheet: <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/en/zbirka/geographical-names#v>; then click INTRODUCTORY NOTES within *Gazetteer of Slovenian Exonyms*

A webpage of the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute provides an English spreadsheet with the names of 198 independent countries presented with twenty-four fields: <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/en/zbirka/geographical-names#v>; then click

TABLE OF INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES

A webpage of the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute provides an English spreadsheet with the names of fifty-one dependencies presented with eleven fields:

<http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/en/zbirka/geographical-names#v>; then click TABLE OF DEPENDENCIES

A webpage of the ZRC SAZU Anton Melik Geographical Institute provides English introductory notes to the spreadsheets with the names of independent countries and

dependencies: <http://giam.zrc-sazu.si/en/zbirka/geographical-names#v>; then click INTRODUCTORY NOTES within Tables with names of countries and dependencies

A webpage of the UNEG Working Group on Exonyms provides both the full spreadsheet with 5,044 exonyms and the English introductory notes:

<http://unegn.zrc-sazu.si/Downloads/THEGAZETTEEROFSLOVENIANEXONYMS.aspx>

“...it is difficult to perform a comprehensive standardization of Slovenian exonyms, especially because there is neither sufficient will nor sufficient funds...”  
(this one on the last page of the article)



## 6. Conclusion

In a small country like Slovenia, exonyms are only studied by a few individuals. Geographers predominate, whereas linguists are interested in exonyms primarily from the viewpoint of developing normative rules for transliterating names from non-Roman script languages. Therefore, it is difficult to perform a comprehensive standardization of Slovenian exonyms, especially because there is neither sufficient will nor sufficient funds, which additionally aggravates the inappropriate attitude of governing politicians toward scholarship. Over the past years, this has led to continuous cuts in funding for research and development. Systematic processing of the collected exonym material clearly calls for in-depth joint efforts by geographers

and linguists, which has already been proven successful in the standardization of the names of countries. Hopefully, the circumstances will soon also become more favorable for studying exonyms.

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## Exonyms Used for Country Names in the Republic of Korea

Although the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names have consistently recommended that exonyms be reduced, there are exonyms still used in each language group in its social and historical context. In the Republic of Korea, the use of exonyms has been decreasing but some exonyms are still used or coexist with endonyms. A considerable part of exonyms used in the Korean society is related to the widespread use of Chinese characters (漢字), known as *Hanja* (한자) in Korean, *Kanji* in Japanese, and *Hanzi* in Chinese reading. Korea and Japan, as well as China, have long used Chinese characters as a part of their writing systems, but developed different ways of reading them. In this process, exonyms were shared between these three language areas, but evolved with specific formats and readings.

Generally, countries which have maintained long and close relationship with Korea in pre-modern times are more likely to be called by their exonyms. Different exonyms appeared and changed over time with a number of etymological or phonological origins. Some originated from the reading of Chinese and Japanese exonyms written in Chinese characters but read in the Korean way, such as 호주 (*Hoju*, 濠洲: Australia), 중국 (*Jungguk*, 中國: China), 미국 (*Miguk*, 美國: U.S.A.), and 영국 (*Yeongguk*, 英國: U.K.) while some originated from the reading of English exonyms, such as 오스트리아 (*Austria*), 헝가리 (*Hungary*), and 스페인 (*Spain*), which are known as traditional names. Recently, the preference has been to use transcribed endonyms from the donor languages, such as 도이칠란트 (*Deutschland*) rather than 독일 (*Dogil*, 獨逸: Germany) and 몽골 (*Mongol*) rather than 몽고 (*Monggo*, 蒙古).

There are some specific cases which allow the use of exonyms, mostly related to the social and cultural contexts. For example, some country names appearing in the Korean version of the Bible are written and spoken in their old exonyms originated

from the Korean reading of Chinese characters, which are not normally used in daily lives any longer, such as 애굽 (*Aegup*, 埃及) for Egypt and 희랍 (*Huirap*, 希臘) for Greece. The use of old exonyms often represents the religious identity spread in the Korean society. Some exonyms are used as modifiers for specific words. For example, 월남 (*Wollam*, 越南), an exonym for Vietnam, is still used for Vietnam in combination with Vietnam-style spring rolls, and 서반아 (*Seobana*, 西班牙), an exonym for Spain, to refer to the department of the Spanish language established in colleges.

When extended into city or region names, some exonyms coexist with endonyms. They were created by reading Japanese and Chinese names in the Korean way, such as 동경

(*Donggyeong*) for Tokyo (東京), 북경 (*Bukgyeong*) for Beijing (北京), and 상해 (*Sanghae*) for Shanghai (上海). Endonymic forms of these cities, transcribed into Korean, are 도쿄, 베이징, and 상하이, respectively. It is generally recommended to use these endonymic forms in the public materials including government documents, textbooks

and media instruments, but exonyms are still widely used, in every day conversations in particular, since Koreans tend to memorize every syllable of the name in the Korean way of reading Chinese characters.

The standardized forms of country names to be used in Korean are provided by the National Institute of the Korean Language (<http://www.korean.go.kr>)

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“...the use of exonyms has been decreasing but some exonyms are still used or coexist with endonyms.”



## Botswana - "Exonyms – standards or standardization?"

**B**otswana is a relatively large country with surface area of over 500 000 square kilometers, an area similar to France. The western part of the country is covered by the Kgalagadi/Kalahari desert with a sparsely populated area, while the eastern part carries a higher percentage of the over one million inhabitants. Setswana is the major local language spoken in the country as one of the two official languages. Although the major language spoken is Setswana, there exist over forty different languages and dialects in the country. Many villages in Botswana have multiple names due to the diversity of languages, and because of this, different names are used for the same locality and or topographic features

Botswana Place Names Commission (PNC) has recognized the importance and benefits of standardization of Place Names and the role they play in society for those who use different languages and dialects. In its functions PNC did not tamper with names used over years due to their cultural and historical background. It has been common in Botswana to use both Exonyms and Endonyms for communication and easy pronunciation in some areas.

### Exonyms

Many places in the predominantly Setswana speaking areas historically had English exonyms which were different from original Setswana names. These names are still in use and the local names in the areas are available, due to difficulty in pronunciation and not being easy to communicate they seem to have been forgotten. These names appear in some districts of the country. (see list). The names were given either by English or Afrikaans speaking linguistics to topographic features situated in a district where the languages had no official status. These names are different from their corresponding endonym (Rakops/Tsienyane) (PallaRoad/Dinokwe). The most prominent rivers and mountains near the language borders as well as larger inhabited places are called by their exonyms. (Limpopo/Oodi, Groot Marico rivers, Olifants Drift/Olifan.)

It is common for people to frequently use exonyms for features in their direct neighborhood than those in remote areas. The older population tends to use exonyms than the younger who might feel that they are no longer relevant. However common usage still favours the older exonyms this applies to government and media sources.

Botswana has played a leading role in the collection of names, and the standardization of these need to be integrated into activities that enhance socio economic development. However the Botswana Geographical Names Interim Committee has proposed to the relevant Ministry, the establishment of district committees to address geographical names standardization inclusive of exonyms and endonyms and their importance in the society as per UNGEgn guidelines.

The list below includes both current and historic exonyms

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Kalahari     | 2. Kalkfontein       |
| 3. Artesia      | 4. Palla Road        |
| 5. Rakops       | 6. Tweeriverien Camp |
| 7. Rappels' Pan | 8. Ghanzi            |
| 9. Limpopo etc. | 10.                  |

The use of exonyms therefore needs some standards or standardization much as they are extensively used both at national and international levels from country to country. The African region is rich in both culture and history, which needs to be documented. Therefore, this region should be encouraged to attend either Regional or United Nations Conferences on standardisation of geographical names in an effort to intensify standardisation of geographical names in their respective countries.

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## From the Divisions

### East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED)



The twenty-first Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division (ECSEED) of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names was held on 26 November 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The Session was attended by 21 participants from 8 ECSEE Division countries: Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Participants of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the East Central and South-East Europe Division

During the session national reports of participating countries and several special papers were presented. The presentations described various topics: national standardization, names authorities, databases and gazetteers, geographical names in multilingual areas, exonyms, romanization, country names and other topics. All national reports and special presentations are published on the ECSEED web site: <http://ecseed.zrc-sazu.si/Sessions.aspx>.

The Session recognized the importance of geographical names and the positive achievements and progress made in the work of geographical names standardization by participating countries.

The Session concluded that after the next UN Conference on standardization on Geographical Names in 2017, the ECSEED presidency will be assumed by another country. Therefore all countries representatives were requested to notify their willingness to take on the presidency of ECSEE Division within one month.

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### Portuguese-speaking Division

The Reference Center on Geographic Names (CRNG) of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) has finished the translation into Portuguese of the UN brochure *Geographical Names as vital keys for accessing information in our globalized and digital world*. It is expected that the translation will help raise awareness about the importance of geographical names and their standardization in Portuguese-speaking countries.

#### **Ana Cristina da Rocha Béranger Resende**

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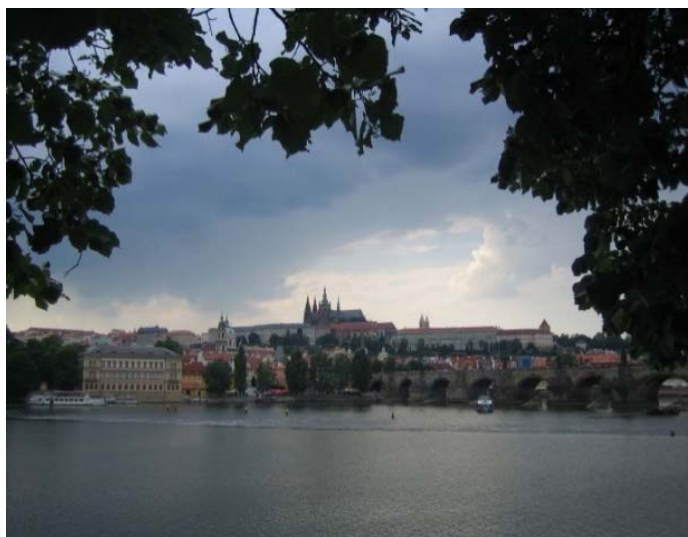


## From the Working Groups

### Working Group on Exonyms

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting, UNGEGN Working Group on Exonyms, in conjunction with a meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems, Prague [Praha], Czechia, 6-8 April 2017

Based on the kind invitation of our Czech colleagues, the next meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms will take place in Prague [Praha], Czechia, 6-8 April 2017. It will have the character of a workshop with several paper presentations and a general discussion and be held in conjunction with a meeting of the UNGEGN Working Group on Romanization Systems.



*Photo (Jordan 2011): View on castle hill across Vitava River*

The Working Group on Exonyms will meet Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April, and Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, morning; the WG on Romanization Systems Friday afternoon. Saturday, 8 April, will be reserved for an excursion to Prague and/or its surroundings.

The thematic focus of the WGE meeting will be the use of exonyms in various fields of communication and in different parts of the world. Based on these empirical findings it will be easier to draft a document on current use of exonyms in general. We plan the publication of proceedings.

Topics for the meeting of the WG on Romanization Systems would include systems likely to be approved at the 11<sup>th</sup> UNCSGN (perhaps e.g. Arabic), criteria for the implementation of romanization systems and activities aimed at publicizing the need for romanization systems.

**Venue:** Czech Geodetical Office, Pod sídlištěm 9 Kobylisy, 18211 Praha 8, Czechia

**Accommodation:**

\*\*\*\* Hotel Troja <<http://www.hoteltroja.cz/>> 7 min. walk  
\*\*\*\* Hotel DUO <<http://duo.hotel.cz/pricelist/accommodation/>>  
2 metro stops  
\*\*\* Hotel Henrietta  
<<http://www.henrietta.cz/content.php?lang=2&id=104&idf=0&t=1>> 5 min. walk  
\*\* Penzion U Hofmanů  
<<http://www.uhofmanu.cz/index.php?show=pokoje&lang=GB>> 5 min. walk

**Registration:** Please approach [peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:peter.jordan@oeaw.ac.at) or [peeter.pall@eki.ee](mailto:peeter.pall@eki.ee) for registration forms. On the registration form you can also announce the title of your paper. Both meetings are not confined to WG members, but open for everybody interested. The meetings of both WG are also by no means mutually exclusive. You are very welcome to participate in both of them.

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## Working Group on Evaluation and Implementation

### Workshop on Implementing Resolutions: Experiences of Commemorative Naming, UNCC Bangkok, 27 April 2016

The Working Group (WG) on Evaluation and Implementation organized a workshop on implementing resolutions for the case of commemorative naming, at the UNCC Bangkok during the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of UNGEGN, 12:30-13:45, 27 April 2016. This workshop was designed to put through the proposal made at the WG meeting in Copenhagen, September 2015 to have forums to share experiences of implementing UNCSGN resolutions. Commemorative naming has been chosen as the first topic: A resolution was adopted at the 8th Conference (2002), VIII/2, which recommended that the use of personal names be discouraged to designate a geographical feature during the lifetime of the person in question, and that clear statements be provided on the length of the waiting period before using a commemorative name.

After the WG convenor's introduction of the workshop background, each country's experience of commemorative naming was presented; Austria (Peter Jordan), Finland (Ulla Onkamo), Republic of Korea (Sungjae Choo), Sweden (Annette Torenstjör), and Tunisia (Naima Friha). A specific focus was given on the practices either by public or private sector, guidelines provided by names authority, restraints to applying the relevant UNCSGN resolution, and so on. Questions and comments were then extended by Helen Kerfoot (Canada), Staffan Nyström (Sweden) and all participants.

Commemorative naming practices are commonly found in all countries presented with some typical examples; naming after historical figures, governors or politicians, classic or modern

musicians, civil workers, sports stars, and so on. The UNCSGN resolution VIII/2 was generally effective in guiding the naming authorities of each country for some guidelines; discouraging naming after living persons; and setting up the "waiting period." Despite these guidelines, there are still cases in which names of living persons are adopted. Political motivations sometimes work, which cannot be often avoidable. The waiting period has variations; from five (Austria, Finland) to thirty years (Republic of Korea). Persons to be commemorated should have a relation to the area (Austria).

For future plans succeeding this workshop, the WG convenor expressed his hope to have further discussion on commemorative naming in other formats, such as seminar, papers, books, etc. and extend into other topics, such as commercial use of geographical names, cultural heritage values, the use of generic terms in the international settings, and so on, but with central focus on the aspects of implementing resolutions.

Materials and related references presented at the workshop are available at the UNGEGN website: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/ungegn/wg7.html>.

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## From the Countries

### Burkina Faso *(continued from 49<sup>th</sup> issue)*

#### 1. Démarche adoptée pour le traitement des toponymes

La démarche adoptée pour le traitement proprement dit des toponymes peut être appréhendée à travers trois (03) principales étapes :

- Les enquêtes toponymiques ;
- Le prétraitement des toponymes collectés ;
- L'examen et la validation des toponymes par la CNT.

##### 1.1 Les enquêtes toponymiques

Sur la base des résultats de l'interprétation des images satellitaires réalisée à l'aide des données et informations externes existantes (cartographiques ou non), un listing des différents toponymes (localité, oronyme, hydronyme, lieu-dit, etc.) est constitué. Cette liste est présentée de telle sorte que pour chaque toponyme, on retrouve entre autre le nom saisi par l'opérateur, le statut du toponyme (administratif ou non) et les noms portés sur les anciennes cartes existantes (1/200.000, 1/50.000 ou 1/500.000). Le prétraitement a consisté à examiner ligne par ligne, chaque toponyme et à porter dans une colonne « Nom enquête » le nom retenu. Les cas ambigus sont annotés et sont prioritairement vérifiés dans le cadre de l'enquête toponymique proprement-dite.

Intégrée dans le processus de production des données cartographiques, cette enquête intervient dans la phase de complètement terrain suite à la saisie des données. Elle consiste à collecter auprès des populations, la transcription la plus proche possible des usages au niveau local des différents toponymes (noms de localités, de cours d'eau, de relief, d'aires classées et autres points d'intérêt spécifique). Des informations sur les significations et l'historique sont également collectées.



Découpage en feuillets cartographiques (A) Exemple de fiche d'enquête toponymique (B) et Travaux de complètement terrain et d'enquête toponymique en image (C)

L'ensemble de ces données sont collectées à travers une fiche de collecte préalablement conçue pour chaque feuillet cartographique.

##### 1.2 Prétraitement des toponymes

À l'issu de la phase de complètement terrain, les noms d'enquêtes collectés sont d'abord intégrés dans les bases de saisie. Ensuite, à l'aide d'une documentation de référence, les noms d'enquêtes saisis sont revus en fonction des erreurs de transcription décelées. Cette documentation de référence est constituée :

- des cartes générales, linguistiques et topographiques existantes (échelles et dates) ;
- du Gazetteer de Haute-Volta (1965) ;
- des outils de traitement des toponymes au Burkina Faso incluant une esquisse de glossaire des termes en fonction des régions linguistiques (document de travail adopté par la CNT) ;
- d'autres documents pertinents, si besoin est ....



Travaux de prétraitement en image.

La méthode de contrôle utilisée consiste à examiner attentivement ligne par ligne les toponymes de chaque fiche d'enquête en fonction :

- de la commune de rattachement,
- du nom saisi,
- des anciens noms,
- du nom de l'enquête,
- des remarques éventuelles.



Ce contrôle minutieux permet assurément d'identifier les ambiguïtés qui sont annotées et soumises à la validation de la CNT.

## 1.3 Examen et validation des toponymes

Cette étape est réalisée en plénière lors des sessions ordinaires de la CNT. L'approche a été la suivante :

- en cas de désaccord entre le choix de l'opérateur (nom de l'enquête) et celui de la CNT, la CNT (ou son Bureau) écrit dans sa case le toponyme à retenir et justifie son choix dans la case « Remarques » ;
- ayant contrôlé systématiquement toutes les cases de la fiche d'enquête concernant les noms qui posent des difficultés de chaque feuille concernée, la CNT (ou le Bureau de toponymie) appose son accord de validation dans la case convenue, date et signe cet accord. *La graphie de ces toponymes est ainsi validée ;*
- en cas de désaccord, la CNT (ou le Bureau de toponymie) fait remonter l'information, sous forme de dossier, pour une session extraordinaire.



*Plénière de la première session 2013 de CNT en images (avril 2013)*

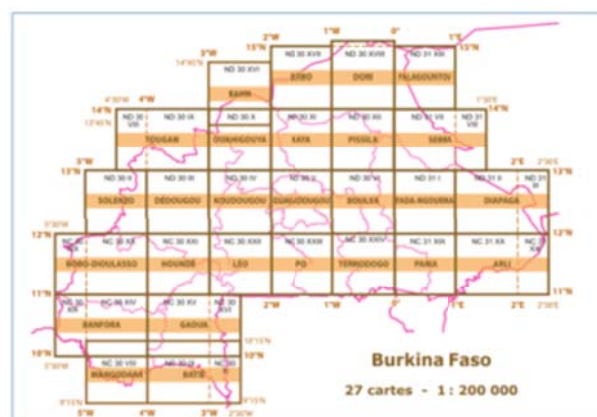
Une fiche d'enquête ainsi contrôlée et validée par la CNT, devient une référence en matière de toponymie nationale. Son officialisation par contre fait l'objet d'un arrêté conjoint entre le Ministère en charge de l'administration du Territoire et celui en charge de la cartographie.

## 2. Principaux résultats de la normalisation des toponymes

Les travaux de normalisation menés dans le cadre du projet de mise à jour de la cartographie 1/200.000 du Burkina, ont permis d'examiner et de valider les toponymes de six (06) feuillets en 2012, douze (12) feuillets en 2013 et neuf (09) feuillets en 2014. Au total, environ 15000 toponymes, constitués entre autre de localités, d'hydronymes, d'oronymes, de noms de forêt ou aire classé, etc.), ont été validés à travers les sessions de la CNT entre 2012 et 2014. Outre ces noms, les noms des entités administratives du pays ont été examinés et validés. Les noms des différents feuillets cartographiques ont également été revus en fonction du nouveau découpage adopté.



*Ancien découpage cartographique*



*Nouveau découpage cartographique*

## 3. Utilisation des résultats de la normalisation des toponymes

L'utilisation des résultats de la normalisation des toponymes peut être appréhendée à travers :

- Le report des toponymes validés sur les nouvelles cartes ;
- L'adoption officielle des noms des localités et entités administratives validés ;
- La valorisation des toponymes validés sur les produits cartographiques réalisés

### 3.1 Report des toponymes validés sur les nouvelles cartes

Dans les principes, l'adoption officielle des toponymes validés ayant un statut administratif était un préalable avant leur report sur les nouvelles cartes. Mais, tenant compte de la spécificité de la carte qui est par excellence, un outil d'orientation sur le terrain et sur la base d'une recommandation de la CNT, l'IGB, en tant que maître d'œuvre délégué du projet de Mise à jour de la cartographie 1/200.000 du Burkina et assurant par ailleurs

le Secrétariat de la CNT, a sollicité et obtenu l'aval de l'administration.

Ainsi, on peut observer assez clairement une évolution des toponymes entre les anciennes et les nouvelles feuilles cartographiques.

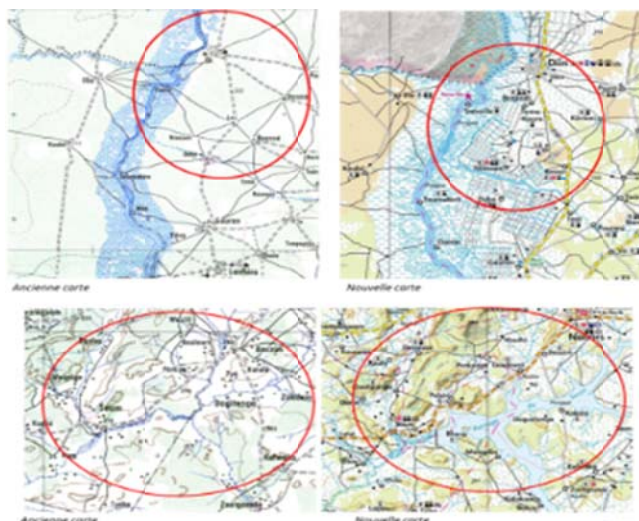


Illustration de l'évolution des toponymes

## 3.2 Adoption officielle des noms des localités et entités administratives validés

Il s'agit là d'un processus administratif qui commence par la transmission par voie hiérarchique d'un rapport justificatif au Ministère chargé de l'administration du territoire, demandant l'adoption officielle des toponymes validés par la CNT. Ce dernier, après examen, prépare un arrêté conjoint qui est signé par de l'Administration Territoriale et le Ministre en charge de la cartographie du territoire (actuel Ministre des Infrastructures, du Désenclavement et des Transports).

Le processus est actuellement en cours et on dispose à ce jour d'un premier arrêté conjoint datant d'août 2013 et qui concerne l'adoption de la transcription des 628



Extrait du premier arrêté conjoint

localités sur les 2516 premières localités administratives examinées par la CNT.

## 3.3 Valorisation des toponymes validés

Cette valorisation est traduite entre autre par :

- La présentation de la couverture des feuillets cartographiques ;
- La publication d'un index des localités administratives

### 3.3.1 Présentation de la couverture des feuillets cartographiques

La présentation de la couverture des feuillets cartographiques a été conçue en tenant compte des localités présentes et des charges culturelles ou touristiques que véhiculent ces localités. C'est ainsi que sur chaque couverture, on retrouve une photo principale qui caractérise la localité qui porte le nom du feuillet cartographique, et cinq petites photos qui rappellent des sites importants dans les autres localités présentes sur ledit feuillet.



Couverture de quelques feuillets cartographiques

### 3.3.2 Publication d'un index des localités administratives

Un autre aspect non moins important de la valorisation des toponymes validés, demeure sans doute la publication d'un index des localités administratives dans un produit spécifique du projet à savoir l'atlas routier et touristique

Ce produit qui visualise en 183 découpes la carte du territoire national à l'échelle 1/200.000, présente entre les pages 184 et 197, un index qui permet de retrouver l'emplacement des localités administratives du pays.





*Page de couverture et sommaire de l'atlas produit*

[illegible]

## Conclusion Et Perspectives

Nous pouvons reconnaître que le projet de Mise à jour de la cartographie 1/200.000 a permis de remettre en selle la Commission Nationale de Toponymie et de relancer véritablement les activités de toponymie au Burkina Faso. Les produits de ce projet qui valorise les résultats des travaux de validation des toponymes, illustrent bien un dynamisme retrouvé qui doit se perpétuer à travers une poursuite des sessions de la CNT, véritables cadres d'échanges et discussions dans la quête continue de l'harmonisation et de la normalisation des toponymes au Burkina Faso. Les perspectives des prochaines années peuvent se résumer comme suit :

- le renforcement des acquis à travers la constitution d'une base de données toponymiques et l'actualisation du Gazetteer du pays ;
- la poursuite des activités à prendre en compte désormais dans le budget du Ministère de l'Administration Territoriale ;
- le renforcement des capacités des membres de la CNT

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*Rapport de synthèse de la deuxième session 2014 de la Commission Nationale de Toponymie – Rapport technique du projet de Mise à jour de la cartographie 1/200.000 du Burkina* (avril 2014)



## Brazil

### News from Brazil

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics - IBGE- has recently concluded the elaboration of its List of Country Names, meant for the use by this institution in its products and other documents. The preparation of the list followed an approach concerning the use of exonyms and endonyms which seeks a balance between the need to reduce exonyms for the sake of international communication and the need to respect the Brazilian Cultural identity and cultural heritage.

The Committee on Geographic Names - CNGEO is preparing for the discussion of the list among the Brazilian institutions concerned with the use of geographical names, aiming at the

implementation of a Brazilian List of Country Names to be used by the Brazilian official institutions and by the society in general.

The IBGE has now begun the preparation of the list of exonyms. It follows the same approach to the use of exonyms and endonyms used in the preparation of the List of Country Names. The names of capitals are presently being analyzed.

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(English version)

## Canada

### Disseminating traditional Amerindian and Inuit place names to showcase Quebec Aboriginal toponymic heritage

#### Commitment of the Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada)

In order to showcase and enhance awareness of Aboriginal toponymic heritage, which experienced reduced visibility in mapping in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Commission committed to adding 250 traditional Amerindian names each year to the Banque de noms de lieux du Québec, the Web-based database of Quebec place names. Over 500 have been disseminated to date.

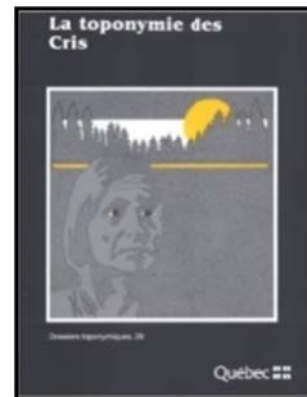
The Commission decided to prioritize traditional Aboriginal toponyms that designate natural geographical features (lakes, mountains, rivers, etc.). They bear official names that are not Aboriginal (**Grande rivière de la Baleine**, meaning great whale river), or names that were originally Aboriginal but that have been significantly altered over the course of their use by Francophones or Anglophones (**Rivière Manicouagan**). Also included in this group of some 500 disseminated names are traditional but unofficial Aboriginal names that designate Quebec cities (**Molian** for **Montréal**). It should be noted that the generic elements present in these names disseminated by the Commission are expressed in the language of native speakers. The public can therefore learn about the nature of a given place by consulting the Feature Type field or the official name record of the place in question, linked to the Aboriginal name by a hyperlink.

Moreover, in choosing these 500 names, the Commission gave special consideration to the places located north of the 49th parallel and the Fleuve Saint-Laurent (St. Lawrence River), the

geographical locations of the Gaspésie area and those frequented or inhabited by the Wendat and the Abenakis.

#### Sources of information

To compile the list of traditional Aboriginal place names, the Commission drew from the illustrated dictionary *Noms et lieux du Québec*, ([www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/toponymie-autochtone/repertoire-toponymie-autochtone/](http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/toponymie-autochtone/repertoire-toponymie-autochtone/)), various gazetteers of Aboriginal names that were already published, reports of toponymic inventories conducted since the 1960s and, finally, TOPOS, the internal database of Quebec place names.





## Characteristics of the toponyms on the list

The list of traditional Aboriginal place names includes Inuit, Abenakis, Algonquin, Cree, Hurons-Wendat, Innu, Micmac and Naskapi names.

A number of rivers and lakes in this corpus have more than one Aboriginal name. Indeed, different language communities may have their own names to refer to the same places they frequent, just as communities speaking the same language may use different spellings and names for certain familiar places.

The Commission disseminates more than the just the names themselves with information on the nature of the designated places and their geographical position. When it has the information, it also disseminates notes on the meaning of the toponyms and, sometimes, on the explanation of the connection between the place and its name.

The screenshot shows the website of the Commission de toponymie Québec. The page displays the entry for 'Lac La Moinerie' (Nom officiel). It includes a map of the lake, its location in the Nord-du-Québec region, and a table of metadata.

Date de désignation	Région administrative	Latitude nord	Longitude ouest
2015/07/07	Nord-du-Québec	57° 25' 37"	66° 35' 42"
Spécification	Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC)	Coordonnées décimales	
Ammauq	Hors MRC	57.42894 -66.595	
Géographie (avec ou sans particules de saison)	Municipalité	Carte topographique 1:50 000	
Type d'entité	Rivière-Koksoak (Territoire non organisé)	240/07	
Lac	Code géographique de la municipalité	Carte topographique 1:250 000	
	99902	240/07-0202	

Moreover, some traditional Aboriginal toponyms and their official non-Aboriginal counterparts have the same meaning, which suggests that names derived from the translation of either category have become established by usage. The appropriation of translated versions has therefore enriched Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal toponymy.

Furthermore, although the use of toponyms derived from personal names is much less common than in the toponymy created by Francophones, this practice is observed in Amerindian and Inuit toponymy.

Using the information provided, the public can see that the nature of Aboriginal toponyms in the corpus is largely descriptive. There is a clear link between these names and the parts of the landscapes of Northern Quebec that they designate. From that perspective, traditional Aboriginal toponymy has all the attributes of a vast and seamless

geographical poem infused with imagery of the land it celebrates.

## Next steps

Since the spelling of Aboriginal toponyms is based on an ongoing orthographic standardization exercise within various communities, it is possible that names disseminated by the Commission are not at the cutting edge of the latest decisions on writing conventions. The Commission is ready and willing to collaborate with the communities concerned on potential spelling changes.

The Commission also wishes to improve its information on the meaning of names and add explanations regarding the relationship between the place, its name and its meaning, based on the information provided by Aboriginal communities. The public is interested in learning why places were given the names they bear.

## Other recent action showcasing Aboriginal toponymic heritage

In order to enhance awareness of the toponymy that Amerindian and Inuit peoples use, and ensure its visibility, the Commission makes geographical names in Aboriginal languages official each year. Once official, the names may appear on government maps. For the administrative year from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2016, the Commission made 305 Aboriginal names official, of which 279 were Inuit names, compared to the 800 toponyms in total made official during the year (not including road and street names).

It is also important to note that the Commission attributed traditional Aboriginal names to two very important water bodies in Northern Quebec, while recycling the names replaced: they were reused to designate neighbouring, major and unnamed topographical elements. The names in question are **Lac Tasiuq** and **Lac Wiyashakimī** (formerly **Lac Guillaume-Delisle** and **Lac à l'Eau Claire**). These lakes are located in the Parc national Tursujuq, managed by Nunavik Parks, an organization of the Administration régionale Kativik (regional government), and by the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs.



The Inuit word *tasiujaq* means “resembling a lake,” and the Cree word *wiyâshâkimî* means “clear body of water.”

In order to preserve the former designations, the members of the Commission also approved the name **Pointe Guillaume-Delisle**, which designates the tongue of land separating Lac Tasiujaq from Baie d’Hudson (Hudson Bay), and the name **Archipel à l’Eau Claire**, which refers to all the islands in Lac Wiyâshâkimî.

Through these new designations, the Commission makes the Aboriginal heritage in this region even more visible. It also maintains the presence of two names of French origin, which now designate geographical features that had remained unnamed up to that point. Thus, there is no doubt that Quebec toponymic heritage has been enriched.

## (French version) Canada

### Diffuser des noms de lieux amérindiens et inuits traditionnels pour mettre en valeur le patrimoine toponymique autochtone québécois

#### L’engagement de la Commission de toponymie du Québec (Canada)

Afin de faire connaître et de mettre en valeur le patrimoine toponymique autochtone, qui avait perdu beaucoup de visibilité dans la cartographie aux XIX<sup>e</sup> et XX<sup>e</sup> siècles, la Commission de toponymie a pris l’engagement d’enrichir la Banque de noms de lieux du Québec, présente sur le Web, de 250 noms de lieux amérindiens ou inuits traditionnels, chaque année. Plus de 500 ont été diffusés jusqu’ici.

La Commission a jugé opportun de faire connaître en priorité des toponymes autochtones traditionnels qui désignent des lieux géographiques naturels (lacs, montagnes, rivières, etc.). Ceux-ci sont porteurs de noms officiels qui ne sont pas des noms autochtones (**Grande rivière de la Baleine**), ou encore qui sont des noms d’origine autochtone tout en ayant connu des transformations importantes au fil de leur utilisation par les usagers francophones ou anglophones (**Rivière Manicouagan**). Figurent aussi dans ce groupe de quelque 500 noms diffusés des noms autochtones traditionnels, mais non officiels, qui désignent des villes québécoises (**Molian** pour **Montréal**). Il est à noter que les éléments génériques qui sont présents dans ces noms diffusés par la Commission sont exprimés dans la langue des locuteurs autochtones. Le public peut donc connaître la nature du lieu dont il est question en consultant le champ Type d’entité ou encore la fiche du nom officiel dudit lieu, reliée au nom autochtone par un hyperlien.

De plus, lorsqu’elle a choisi ces quelque 500 noms, la Commission a accordé une attention particulière aux lieux situés au nord du 49<sup>e</sup> parallèle et au nord du fleuve Saint-Laurent, aux lieux géographiques de la Gaspésie, ainsi qu’à ceux que fréquentent ou habitent les Wendats et les Abénaquis.

Finally, it is interesting to note that, as a result of these changes, all the places involved bear only one official name, which is the norm in Quebec.

#### Marc Richard

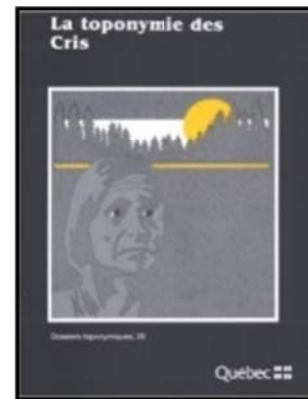
Commission de toponymie du Québec

April 1, 2016

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#### Les sources de l’information

Pour dresser cette liste de toponymes autochtones traditionnels, la Commission a puisé dans le dictionnaire illustré *Noms et lieux du Québec*, dans différents répertoires toponymiques autochtones déjà publiés ([www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/toponymie-autochtone/repertoire-toponymie-autochtone/](http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/toponymie-autochtone/repertoire-toponymie-autochtone/)), dans plusieurs rapports d’inventaires toponymiques effectués depuis les années 1960 et, finalement, dans TOPOS, la banque interne de noms de lieux du Québec.



#### Les caractéristiques des toponymes inscrits sur la liste

On trouve sur la liste de toponymes autochtones traditionnels des noms inuits, abénaquis, algonquins, cris, hurons-wendats, innus, micmacs et naskapis.

Plusieurs rivières et lacs de ce corpus possèdent plus d’un nom autochtone. Il arrive en effet que des communautés linguistiques différentes aient attribué chacune de leur côté des noms aux mêmes lieux qu’elles fréquentent, tout comme on

constate que des communautés partageant la même langue ont donné des orthographes et des noms différents à certains lieux familiers.

La Commission ne fait pas que diffuser les noms eux-mêmes avec des renseignements sur la nature des lieux désignés et la position géographique de ces derniers. Lorsqu'elle détient l'information, elle diffuse aussi des notes sur la signification des toponymes et, parfois, sur l'explication du lien entre le lieu et son nom.

Commission de toponymie Québec

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Retour aux résultats

Version imprimable

Ammaluq - Variante traditionnelle autochtone

Lac La Moinerie - Nom officiel

Attacher dans Google Earth

Origine et signification

Ammaluq est le nom que les Inuits utilisent pour s'appeler le lac La Moinerie. Il signifie « le nord ».

Source :

Selatin d'Anglure, Bernard. Enquête toponymique dans le Nouveau-Québec esquimau (1966) : rapport préliminaire, page 74.

Date de désignation	Région administrative	Latitude nord	Longitude ouest
Spécifique	Nord-du-Québec	57° 22' 37"	66° 36' 42"
Ammaluq	Municipalité régionale de comté (MRC)	Coordonnées décimales	
	Hors MRC	57.4094	-66.595
Générique (avec ou sans particules de liaison)	Municipalité	Carte topographique 1:50 000	
Type d'entité	Rivière-Koksoak (Territoire non organisé)	240/07	
Lac	Code géographique de la municipalité	Carte topographique 1:20 000	
	99902	240/07.0202	

Par ailleurs, on note que des toponymes autochtones traditionnels et leurs homologues officiels non autochtones ont le même sens, ce qui laisse croire que des noms issus de la traduction de l'une ou de l'autre catégorie se sont implantés dans l'usage. L'appropriation de versions traduites se trouve donc à avoir enrichi la toponymie autochtone et la toponymie non autochtone.

En outre, même si l'attribution de toponymes issus de noms de personnes est beaucoup plus rare que dans la toponymie créée par les francophones, on observe néanmoins cette pratique dans la toponymie amérindienne et inuite.

Avec l'information mise à sa disposition, le public peut constater que la nature des toponymes autochtones du corpus est largement descriptive. On remarque une correspondance évidente entre les noms et les parties des paysages du Nord-du-Québec que ces noms désignent. Vue sous cet angle, la toponymie autochtone traditionnelle revêt les attributs d'un vaste poème géographique en continu, tout imprégné de la terre qu'il célèbre.

## La suite des choses

De même, comme la manière d'écrire les toponymes autochtones repose sur un exercice de normalisation orthographique en cours au sein de diverses communautés, il est possible que des noms diffusés par la Commission ne

soient pas à la pointe des dernières décisions en matière d'écriture. La Commission se dit prête à collaborer avec les communautés concernées pour apporter d'éventuelles retouches à l'orthographe.

La Commission est désireuse aussi d'améliorer sa rubrique sur la signification de ces noms et de l'enrichir à l'aide d'explications sur la relation entre le lieu, son nom et la signification de celui-ci, grâce aux renseignements que les communautés autochtones lui fourniront. Le public désire comprendre en effet pourquoi les lieux ont reçu les noms qu'ils portent.

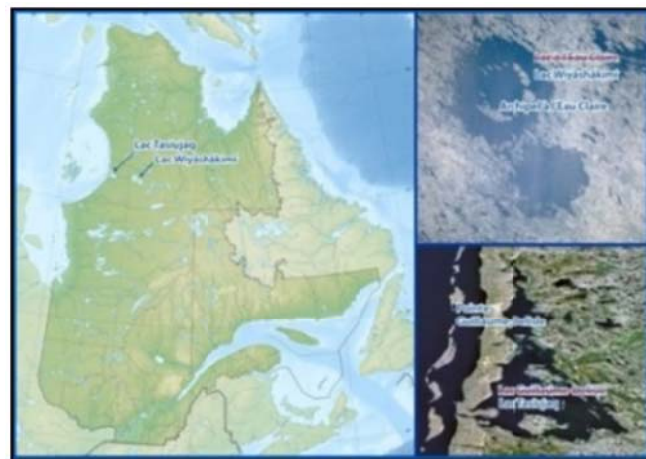
## Autres actions récentes de mise en valeur du patrimoine toponymique autochtone

Pour faire connaître la toponymie que les Amérindiens et les Inuits utilisent, et assurer sa visibilité, la Commission de toponymie officialise chaque année des noms géographiques de langues autochtones. Une fois officiels, ces noms peuvent figurer sur les cartes de l'État. Pour l'année administrative qui va du 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2015 au 31 mars 2016, la Commission a officialisé 305 noms autochtones, dont 279 noms inuits, par rapport à 800 toponymes officialisés au total durant l'année (en excluant les noms de voies de communication).

Il convient aussi de signaler, par ailleurs, que la Commission a attribué à deux nappes d'eau très importantes du Nord-du-Québec des noms traditionnels autochtones, tout en recyclant les noms remplacés : ceux-ci ont été réutilisés pour désigner des éléments topographiques voisins, majeurs et innommés. Il s'agit des noms **Lac Tasiujaq** et **Lac Wiyâshâkimî** (anciennement **Lac Guillaume-Delisle** et **Lac à l'Eau Claire**). Ces lacs sont situés dans le parc national Tursujuq, dont la gestion est assurée par Parcs du Nunavik, un organisme de l'Administration régionale Kativik, et par le ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs.

Le mot inuit *tasiujaq* signifie « qui ressemble à un lac », et le mot cri *wiyâshâkimî* signifie « plan d'eau claire ».

Afin de préserver les anciennes dénominations, la Commission a également officialisé le toponyme **Pointe Guillaume-Delisle**, qui désigne la langue de terre séparant le lac Tasiujaq de la baie d'Hudson, et celui d'**Archipel à l'Eau Claire**, qui renvoie à l'ensemble des îles situées dans le lac Wiyâshâkimî.





Grâce à ces nouvelles dénominations, la Commission rend encore plus visible l'héritage autochtone dans cette région. Elle maintient également la présence de deux noms d'origine française, qui désignent désormais des entités géographiques jusqu'alors innommées. Ainsi, il ne fait aucun doute que le patrimoine toponymique québécois s'en trouve enrichi.

Enfin, il est intéressant de souligner que, au terme de ces changements, tous les lieux visés ne portent qu'un seul nom officiel, ce qui est la norme au Québec.

**Marc Richard**

Commission de toponymie du Québec

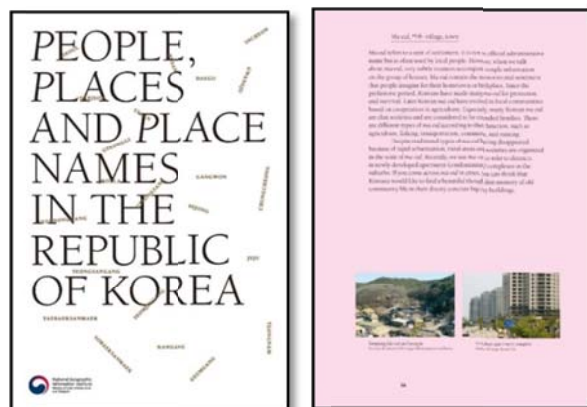
1<sup>er</sup> avril 2016

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## Republic of Korea

### Publication of People, Places and Place Names in the Republic of Korea

The National Geographic Information Institute (NGII) proudly announces the publication of *People, Places and Place Names in the Republic of Korea*, a new style place name book. This book is a result of the NGII's ongoing project of providing informative and useful information to the public, with a view to promoting public awareness on place names as well as narrowing the gap between toponymy experts and the general public.



to be filled with fresh attempts.

To fulfill this purpose, special attention has been paid in several aspects. First, the style of writing and the choice of words have been given much attention. A conversational style with many interrogative sentences is adopted, which is devised to make readers feel that they are on the same page with the authors. Second, a considerable effort has been devoted to helping readers understand the Korean language and read correctly Korean geographical names. Third, diverse sources of materials were selected to explain geographical names, such as adage and cliché, pop songs, photos and pictures, folklore tales, and similar naming practice in other countries.

This initiative of the NGII to narrow the gap between toponymy experts and the general public is waiting for evaluation and is advised to be developed further by other experts. Please feel free to contact NGII ([ngii21@korea.kr](mailto:ngii21@korea.kr)) or Sang-Hyun Chi if you are interested in receiving a copy of this book.

**Sang-Hyun CHI**

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This project of publishing a place-name book, first titled 'Place Names of Korea', was initiated by the NGII in 2015. The book was edited by Sungjae Choo and Sang-Hyun Chi with the help of many experts from the fields of toponymy, linguistics, geography, history, cartography, and even international relations. The book was designed to help non-Korean speakers to correctly read and easily understand Korean geographical names. Moreover, the book intended to introduce the rich cultural and historical heritages in Korea embedded in geographical names. As existing books normally focus on etymologies of place names, they are often difficult to grasp and thus not able to draw interest of the general, the new book had



## Indonesia

### Mobile Application for Toponym Acquisition

One of the duties of The Geospatial Information Authority of Indonesia (*Badan Informasi Geospasial/BIG*), as the government institution that is responsible to provide basic geospatial information, is to collect and manage toponym data of Indonesia into a geospatial database management system. This duty is in line with the role of BIG in the National Team for the Standardization of Geographical Names in Indonesia (*Tim Nasional Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi/TNPNR*).

When collecting toponyms or geographical names, BIG works together with the Regional Governments, especially those who are involved in the Regional Committees of Standardization of Geographical Names (*Panitia Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi/PPNR*) at provincial and regency/city levels. Usually the inventory was done by using certain forms (paper-based and digital documents) to record the data, a navigation GPS to get the coordinates of the data, a camera to take the photo, and a recorder to record the pronunciation. However, since the data were gathered using separate equipment, data management became difficult, thus much information was lost or misplaced. Also, mistakes might occur especially when the coordinates were written down manually to the forms resulting in inaccurate positions of the toponyms.

In order to further facilitate a better inventory process of toponyms, BIG is currently developing a mobile application to acquire geographical names in Indonesia. This application will be running on Android-based mobile phones which are nowadays more widely used and available with reasonable prices. The similar forms currently used for inventory process will be integrated into the application, so users will not need to record the toponym data, its position, its photo, and its pronunciation using separate equipment. Hopefully by using this application, errors in recording coordinates of toponyms can be minimized, and inventory process will be done more quickly. The inventoried data can then be delivered directly from the mobile devices into the database server managed by BIG, and later on the data will be verified, examined and validated by the National Team.

Although this application may be used by anyone, only registered users will be able to send inventoried data to the server at BIG. Data that will be collected will include at least the geographical name, classification, coordinates, and names of the village, sub-district, district/city and province where the

object is located. In addition, the application will be able to store information on the object such as other names used, meaning of the name, history, language origin, photo, and pronunciation.

There are some challenges, however, in developing this application in Indonesia. The application will certainly need good internet connection to deliver data to the server and to access the basemap which will be provided by BIG as a map service. This application will also need good GNSS signal to get more accurate coordinates of the object being inventoried. Unfortunately, in some areas of Indonesia, internet connection and GNSS signal are unstable. Therefore, there has to be a way to keep using the application in offline mode. Another challenge is in the creation of an effective and comfortable user interface design on a relatively small screen of ordinary mobile devices. Since some people may have difficulties in avoiding typos when writing on mobile phones, there has to be a way to edit the data using personal computer before delivering the data to BIG.

The development of this application is currently still in an early stage, and it is expected to be ready for testing by end of this year. Many hopes that this application will make the inventory process of toponyms easier, more fun, and most importantly, acquire more accurate and complete toponym data.

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## Ismalic Republic of Iran

### The Main Activities on the Standardization of Geographical Names in the Islamic Republic of Iran during 2014-2016

#### 1. Standardization of geographical names in databases, Gazetteers, maps and documents

In the past two years, the most important goal that we, the Iranian Committee for Standardization of geographical names (ICSGN), has pursued was the standardization of geographical names in databases, maps and documents. To achieve this target, member organizations of the committee were divided into three categories based on their type of connection to the geographical names, which is as follows:

##### a. Organizations responsible for the naming task

In Iran, according to Law, the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for naming geographical features. In the cities, municipalities affiliated to the Ministry of Interior are responsible for naming streets and urban areas. By applying and promotion of the geonames transcription guidelines, standardization in the naming process will be achieved.

##### b. Organizations responsible for collecting and recording of geonames

This category includes organizations that collect and record geonames in their databases such as the National Cartographic Center (NCC), the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), National Geographical Organization (NGO), and Islamic Republic of Iran Post Company. By connecting and linking these databases, geonames in all databases across the country, will be identical and the same as the national Iranian Geographical Names Database (IGNDB). This link is now created between demographic database and IGNDB and the link between IGNDB and Post database is being processed.

##### c. Geonames User Organizations

By receiving Geonames Web Service from IGNDB, all organizations, institutions and companies can have access and observe the recorded standard geonames of the database on their technical information. Other users can refer to IGNDB Web site and search and retrieve their needed information through different ways. The IGNDB web address is: <http://gndb.ncc.org.ir>

#### 2. Completion of Iranian National Geographical Names Database (IGNDB)

IGNDB is a reference database containing the collected geonames for base maps at the scale of 1: 25,000. Names being extracted from National Topographic Database (NTDB) are checked for Persian script mistakes, and after phonetic features are added, and recorded in the IGNDB database. Currently, all the population area names of the country, including villages and towns (except for villages with less than 20 families) have been recorded in the database and more than 85 percent of other features (natural & manmade) are imported into the IGNDB.

Public users can have access to this information by the address: <http://gndb.ncc.org.ir>

“...all the population area names of the country, including villages and towns (except for villages with less than 20 families) have been recorded in the database and more than 85 percent of other features (natural & manmade) are imported into the IGNDB.”

#### 3. Propagation of approved Iranian Romanization system

Iranian Government officially proclaimed The New Transcription procedure to be applied by all organizations in the country. The Statistical Center of Iran, as the first user, used this guideline to transcribe the recorded geonames in the census Database. (Population areas with less than 20 families)

#### 4. Activities related to exonyms

The National Geographical organization (NGO), as a member of Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN) has launched the collection of geonames of the neighboring countries. This product can be introduced as an exonym database if some fields such as Persian exonym, and transcription etc are added. To achieve better results, transcription training courses were held in NGO.

#### 5. Asia South West Division(Other than Arabic)

During the ninth regional meeting in 2011, Iran presented some forms to the member countries to collect basic exonym information to create a regional exonym database for the division. As the required information was not received through Member States, the necessary sample data were collected from the world atlases. The prepared sample is available on the web at the address: <http://217.218.133.169/sw>

***Iranian Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (ICSGN)***

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## Saudi Arabia

### Gazetteer of Place Names and Tribes of The Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Southern Jordan and Sinai

**K**ing Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (KAFRA) has recently issued a number of publications to augment geographical knowledge about geographical names in terms of their locations, description, observation, connotation, and significance. One of them was translating the British "Gazetteer of Arabia, 1915" into Arabic. The Arabic version came into 12 volumes with a new name (see title).

The original sources of the Gazetteer are several gazetteers in English, which are:

a. *The Gazetteer of Arabia, which included in its contents the British reports and handbooks such as:*

- G. Lorimer's Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman and central Arabia.
- The Handbook of Asir, 1916.
- The Handbook of Hijaz, 1917.
- The Handbook of Yemen, 1917.

This Gazetteer was first published in 1917 in four volumes that contained geographical names and tribes of the Arabian Peninsula arranged alphabetically in English, and is thus considered more modern than Lorimer's Gazetteer that was published in 1908. It was originally issued by the (Indian) British Government to supply referential material on the area of land that extends south of the line joining Aqabah (on the Red Sea) and Abu Kamal on the Euphrates, including the provinces of Iraq and Basrah. The data contained in the Gazetteer were gathered from confidential reports and printed material prepared by The British Intelligence in the Middle East at that time, including also:

- G. Lorimer's Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf, Oman, and Central Arabia;
- The Handbook of Asir, 1916;
- The Handbook of Hejaz, 1917;
- The Handbook of Yemen, 1917;
- Routes in Arabia, 1915.

This Gazetteer also contains data obtained from printed as well as unofficial sources collected from years' of research and analysis by travelers, local intelligence agents, natives, and officials of the British government. This material was regarded as completely confidential and only for the sole use of the Military during World War One. Accordingly, this series of books and reports came under the title of "A Collection of First World War Military Handbooks of Arabia 1913-1917", each volume of which came headed or prefaced by the following statement:

"Confidential. This book is the a property of H.M. government in India, and is intended to provide specific information for those persons for whom they are specifically issued, and who consequently will be held responsible for its protection and reveal it only to those who are authorized to use it. The officers

exercising this power will be held responsible that such information is imparted with due caution and reserve."

The Gazetteer contains information on places, tribes and the like in all countries of the Arabian Peninsula. This information varies in terms of accuracy and proficiency of description, since only the places actually visited by British officers are privileged by more accurate and detailed description of their physical and human features as well as their water resources, economy etc., and distances in miles and other forms of measurements.

b. *Studies made for the Ministry of Transport:*

Several consultation studies were carried out before the year 1390H (1970) for the whole regions of the KSA; these studies are of an exploratory nature completed prior to the implementation of the first five- year Plan in the country, and included valuable information on the villages, towns and hamlets of the Kingdom at the time. They in the whole depict realistic historical images of the social and economic conditions prevailing then, but never in any respect on the current status of routes and public services or facilities. These studies include:

- The study prepared by Ital-consult on the Third Region of the Kingdom, i.e. South and South-Western Region, and published in 1390H (1970). Included in this study are 4555 villages and towns in the region.
- The study conducted by ITCO, an engineering consultant based in Teheran-Riyadh, and released in a report of 175 pages covering the Eastern Region of the Kingdom, and embodies texts as well as 893 villages and towns.
- The study carried out by Wilson-Murrow, an American company, in the Central Region, and included 1081 villages and towns.

The data on villages and hamlets were compiled in encoded or symbolized tables; for example, in order to prepare written information or data on a village, one has to know all those codes or symbols, and then transform them into words. All these reports or studies come with atlases and Arabized names most of which proved to be misspelled because the original geographical names were written in English.

c. *Supplementary Information on Tribes by Oppenheim:*

The full Arabic translation of Max F. Von Oppenheim's book titled "Die Beduinen" appeared in four volumes, with a volume specially devoted to maps and genealogy of tribes. This book was verified and introduced by Majid Shubbar and published by Dar Warraq, Ltd., in London. I, myself, have benefited from this book in quoting and citing some texts mentioned by Oppenheim concerning the tribes referred to in the preparation of the Gazetteer on Countries and Tribes of Arabia. This enabled individuals from relevant tribes who participated with us in this research and commented on information already mentioned in this book regarding their tribes,

to scrutinize and thorough-examine critically such pertinent information and elucidate any ambiguity that shrouded some of the related contents of the book. Oppenheim in his book states geographical names in Arabic with the equivalent Latin in his tables; for this reason, I had to re-examine and scrutinize the original book in German, (a photocopy of which is now deposited in KAFRA library) so as to ascertain, first, that the tables had been copied correctly and, secondly, to take any shortages therein into my consideration.

**Prof. A. N. Alwelaie**

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## Sri Lanka

### Standardization of Geographical Names in Sri Lanka

#### Introduction:

In December 2014, the Cabinet of Ministers of Sri Lanka Government appointed a Committee for Standardization of Geographical Names (CSGN) in Sri Lanka. CSGN consists with 16 members representing different subject areas such as, mapping, archeology, linguistics, geography, history, cultural, postal, home affairs, agrarian, land and ocean geography. The Surveyor General of Sri Lanka functions as the chairman of CSGN. The Committee commenced its work in 2015 and, normally meets once a month at the Survey Department. The Survey Department established a separate branch for the activities of standardization and is also responsible for data collection and processing, coordination, accounting, management of resources and records, etc., in standardization related activities.

#### Pilot Project implemented by the CSGN:

Standardization of Geographical Names is a learning and innovation process for the members of CSGN. Therefore CSGN decided to select a pilot area, collect data, analyze outcomes and, identify and establish a suitable methodology. It was decided to cover the entire country systematically by following local administrative areas. Sri Lanka maintains administrative areas in the following hierarchical order.

Administrative units in hierarchical order	Number of units
Province	09
District	25
Divisional Secretary Division	313
Grama Niladhari Division (GND)	14,022

The *Beruwala* Divisional Secretary Division in the *Kalutara* District of the Western Province was selected for the pilot project. The *Beruwala* area is famous for its rich social and cultural diversity. The Divisional Secretary Division is made up

of 87 GNDs. Members of the CSGN visited the area and had discussions with Government officials of the area and interviewed various people at the village level to get proper understanding about the situation on the ground.



*Field visit by some members of CSGN and other officials*

The CSGN designed an instruction leaflet, forms and maps for field data collection after studying all levels of data collection, data analyzing, data storage, etc. Members of the CSGN successfully collected data of all 87 GNDs in the *Beruwala* Divisional Secretary Division within a week with support of GND officials.

#### Field Data Collection procedure of National Program:

The total land area of Sri Lanka is 65,525 km<sup>2</sup> and, it is covered with 14,022 GNDs. Therefore, the approximate area of a GND is 5 km<sup>2</sup>. However, the size of a GND depends on the population of the area, and the number of houses, etc. With the experience gained from the pilot project, it was decided to collect Geographical Names at GND level with the support of officers in charge of GNDs. Awareness programs for the GND level officers are conducted at Divisional level and required



documents (forms, maps, etc.) are distributed among them for data collection.



*Awareness program for GND level officials*

After conducting awareness programs, GND level officers are directed to collect data within one week and, submit completed forms and maps individually at the Divisional Secretary's office. Data collected by GND level officers are checked and cross examined with already available data sets, and details are clarified with this support. All collected data are marked on the maps of GND for easy referencing, data consistency and maintenance of a Geographical Information System (GIS).



*Checking and cross examining data with GND level officials*

The CSGN has already implemented island-wide data collection programs aiming to complete data collection before end of 2017.

## Already available data sources:

Map making, land surveying and human history have very close association for a long period. In resemblance to this, Sri Lanka also has long history dating back to 1690 in mapping and surveying activities. These activities were restructured with the establishment of the Survey Department as the first Department in Sri Lanka, on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1800.

Therefore, Survey Department has a wide range and collection of maps and statutory survey plans since 1800. Out of them, "one inch to one mile", "1:50,000" and "1:10,000" scale topographic map series and large scale statutory survey plans

contain toponyms which are valuable data sources for standardization of Geographical Names.



*Part of One inch to one mile scale topographic map*

However, it has been noticed that there are some lapses in geographical names available in these maps. Therefore, standardized Geographical Names will be helpful for updating of toponyms of maps.

There are 72 topographic map sheets in "One inch to one mile" scale to cover the entire Sri Lanka. This map series was completed in 1925 with ground survey methods and, geographical names have been collected at village level and written in *Sinhala*.

There are 1,834 topographic map sheets in "1:10,000" scale covering Sri Lanka. This map series was completed in 2015 using aerial photographs and satellite images. In addition, there are 92 map sheets in 1:50,000 scale that covers the entire country. Geographical names in these maps have been written in English.

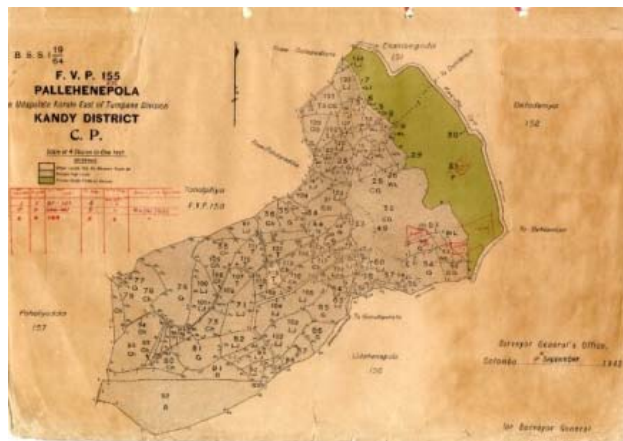


*Part of 1:10,000 scale topographic map*

Larger scale (nearly 1:4,000) statutory survey plans are available at the land parcel level. These plans have been prepared by ground survey methods and contains valuable data such as names of villages, water features, roads, etc.

In addition to the above data sources, data is collected from documents available with the Divisional Secretaries, the Elections Department, the Agrarian Services Department, the

Census and Statistics Department, and the Archeological Department, etc. All this data is compared and analyzed with data collected in the field by GND officials.



Statutory survey plan

#### The standardization process:

Office staff of Geographical Names branch of Survey Department follow the guidelines and principles defined by the CSGN and process data which were collected through GND officers. All standardized data is submitted to the CSGN for their views and approval. All problematic names are also submitted to the CSGN for their final determination. GIS compatible data

layers are created using the information marked on maps and compared with satellite images. The CSGN expect to introduce a database of standardized Geographical Names for publishing on the web for national and international use. The CSGN has paid special attention to the establishment of a standardization process of Geographical Names, to implement it, socialize it and make arrangement to continue it in line with the recommendations of United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and views of all the parties concerned.

#### Romanization:

The **Sinhala (Sinhalese)** and **Tamil** languages are both official and national Languages in Sri Lanka while **English** is the link language. Therefore, standardized names will be recorded in both official languages for use. Both languages use non-Roman scripts. Therefore, Romanization methods for both languages are required for the people who do not know the original alphabets. However, a Romanization system for Tamil has been approved by the United Nations in 1972. There is no national system of Romanization for Sinhala in Sri Lanka. Currently, the CSGN is drafting a suitable system for Sinhala and have plans to submit it to the United Nations for approval before end of 2016.

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## State of Palestine

### The Palestine Experience of Working with Geographic Names

The Palestine National Committee on Geographic Names (PNCNG) was formed based on the decision of the Palestine Council of Minister's in August 2010, in order to take care of all issues related to geographic names in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This decision aligns with the recommendations and resolutions of the United Nations, particularly those that emerged from the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNEGN) which encourages member states to establish national committees to be in charge of standardizing geographic names. Moreover, this decision reinforces the desire of the State of Palestine to extend its presence and participation in all United Nations entities, especially after the recognition of Palestine as a non-member observer state in the United Nations, taken by the Nations General Assembly in 2012. In addition, the formation of PNCNG confirms the comprehensive awareness and the realization of benefits of the standardization of geographic names and toponyms, as they carry historical, social, cultural, political, and economical components for any country, as well as identifying



Figure 1: The participation of PNCNG in the 29<sup>th</sup> UNEGNG Session in Bangkok, Experts from Palestine and Jordan.



the characteristics and relationships between people, language, and place.

Structurally, the PNCNG consists of members from government, private, academic, and NGO institutions. More specifically, the PNCNG includes representatives from the Ministry of Local Government (Chair), the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Palestine Land Authority (PLA), the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Palestinian Universities (An-Najah National University, Birzeit University, and Al-Quds University), various NGO's and Private Sector organisations. The multidisciplinary members of PNCNG facilitate and ease coming up with mature work and output that significantly serves the scope and vision of forming the PNCNG. In general, the main tasks and activities of the PNCNG can be summarized as follows:

1. Unifying geographical names in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
2. Preserving Arabic names for all locations and features as a reflection of culture and heritage
3. Raising awareness of the importance of authoritative geographic names
4. Protecting local geographical names from external influences Creating an electronic database to store geographic names in spatial format
5. Preparing an Atlas of the geographical names
6. Creating names for newly constructed geographical features and communities
7. Applying national and international standards for geographic names
8. Promoting the usage of authoritative geographic names in official documents, maps, Atlases and Gazetteers.

It is worth mentioning that in January 2015, the PNCNG provided the Councils of Ministers with a list of recommendations relating to geographical names in Palestine. As a first action, the Council of Ministers requested MOLG (Ministry of Local Government) to review and verify the spelling, pronunciation, and spatial locations of around 15,000 points that represent the names of all sites and features in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to British maps printed in 1942. MOLG completed the task and made it reachable by a web mapping application, known as GeoMOLG. In 2016, MOLG became the Chair of the PNCNG, and wanted to expand and activate its role either within the Arab Division for the Group of Experts in Geographic Names (ADGEN) or in the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEQN), set up under the umbrella of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). To achieve this, an official letter was sent to the ADGEN to activate and confirm the membership of the State of Palestine in the division. In parallel, the PNCNG managed to secure participation in the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGEQN, held in Bangkok in April 2016, where four experts from Palestine took part in the event. At present, the PNCNG is planning to attend the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN), scheduled to take place in New York, USA in August 2017.

From the beginning of the establishment of PNCNG, the focus was to secure and capture the names of sites, places, landmarks, and features in the West Bank (around 6,000 km) and Gaza Strip (around 400 km) by referring to multiple available sources, particularly the most confidential. For this purpose, it was agreed that the British maps published in 1942 formed an appropriate source that fit the current needs. These maps include the names of all sites and places in historical Palestine before the establishment of Israel, with a scale of 1/20,000 and 1/100,000 in Roman format. The advantage of using this source for extracting geographic names is to avoid engaging political issues in such very technical work and to reveal which names have been replaced due to the ongoing changes on the ground.. The methodology of working with these maps to extract geographic names for all sites and places in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is explained as follows:

1. All British maps with a scale of 1/20,000 and 1/100,000 for West Bank and Gaza Strip published in 1942 or earlier have been recognized as the authoritative source for geographic names. Fortunately, the geographic names appearing on these maps are typed in Roman characters.
2. These maps are collected, scanned and geo-referenced.
3. The geo-referenced maps are stored in one Mosaic with the capabilities and power of ArcGIS.
4. All appearing sites\places are digitized along with filling out the attribute table with the Roman and Arabic names. These names are checked by the experts of PNCNG (linguists).
5. The digitized sites\places are published on the internet through GeoMOLG, on a Palestine web mapping application for Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) as shown in Figure 3. This application offers a proper environment for local authorities and citizens to review the content in its broader sense. The GeoMOLG empowers names of sites\places with all other relevant spatial data including an orthophoto of 25cm resolution which clearly demonstrates the reality for better identification and visual context.

As GeoMOLG web mapping application requires user name and password, it can still be accessed with the generic logins below:

Link: <http://geo.molg.pna.ps>

User name: geomolg

Password: 123456

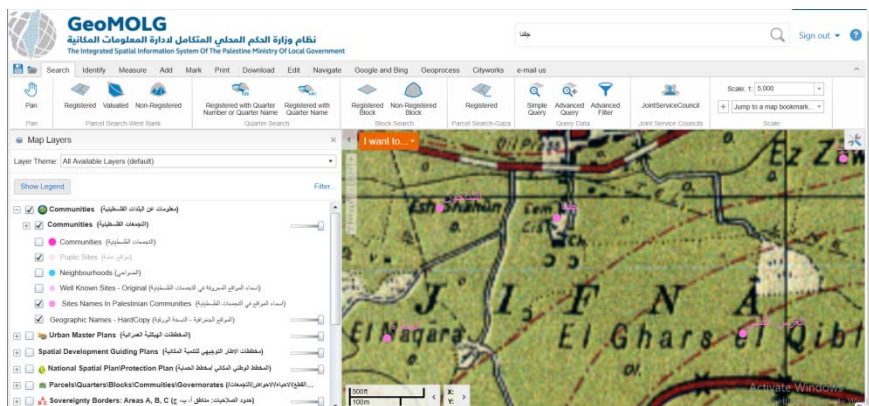


Figure 3: The interface of GeoMOLG web mapping application that shows how the names of sites and features appear in the electronic maps

6. The GeoMOLG team has held live and remote meetings with the major part of the local authorities (who in turn coordinated with knowledgeable people) to gain their feedback regarding what has been published on the internet. Their comments can be highlighted as follows:
  - a. Some new names have been created for new quarters and suburbs that are not displayed, of course, in the 1942 British maps
  - b. The spelling of Arabic names for some sites need to be corrected
  - c. The location of some sites needs to be adjusted



Figure 4: GeoMOLG team while working on geographical names at the lab

important role in Palestine due to the local political circumstances. More precisely, these names are considered as testimonies and witnesses that resuscitate and safeguard the historical roots and provide evidence for the native names of places in the country. Therefore, geographic names, in this sense, are regarded as a live memory that associates between geography, history, people, and places, and thus promote an integrated document that provides the entire history and background of a particular place. In this context, geographic names in Palestine suggest distinction between claim and truth.

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7. The PNCGN took the decision to accredit the names of sites as they are portrayed in the 1942 British maps for this stage and to work on the corrections\additions later according a set of guidelines, procedures and rules.
8. A draft release of the Atlas for geographic names was printed and disseminated to the members of the PNCGN to gain their feedback regarding content and format. This Atlas is intended to be distributed nationally once its final version had been approved..

In conclusion, besides the wide spectrum of typical advantages and benefits of geographic names for any country, they play an





## Training and Education

### International Consortium of Universities for Training in Geographical Names (ICUTGN) established

United Nations resolution IV/5 notes that, although very few universities and academies have cartographic toponymy as part of the curriculum, there is a need for professional personnel with education in toponymy, and therefore recommends that each country should aim at providing training in cartographic toponymy at the university or corresponding academic level.

The relevant resolution reads as follows:

#### IV/5 Education in cartographic toponymy

##### *The Conference,*

*Noting* that there exists a need for professional personnel with education in cartographic toponymy,

*Noting further* that very few universities and academies have cartographic toponymy as part of the curriculum,

*Recommends* that each country should aim at providing training in cartographic toponymy at the university or corresponding academic level.

In pursuance of this resolution, and in accordance with recommendations of the IGC in Moscow and the ICC in Rio de Janeiro in 2015, an International Consortium of Universities for Training in Geographical Names (ICUTGN) was established at the initiative of the joint IGU/ICA Commission on Toponymy in association with the Unit for Language Facilitation of the University of the Free State in South Africa.

Universities currently participating in the Consortium include the Sapienza University of Rome, the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and the University of the Free State. Other universities

that have expressed an interest in the activities of the Consortium are the Universities of Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

An accredited course has been prepared that includes linguistic, cartographic, geographical, social, political, legal, historical, practical and other aspects of toponymy relevant to students, researchers, names practitioners, planners and everyone interested in geographical names. The course also covers practical guidance in research techniques such as the utilization of fieldwork, archival and published sources, internet searches, etc., and guidelines for the writing of articles, reports, dissertations and theses in accordance with the requirements of the South African Qualifications Authority.

The course will be presented by an international team of lecturers and trainers, each a specialist in his or her own field of expertise, and will be held in conjunction with an International Symposium on Geographical Names to be held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 18 to 20 September 2017, and subsequently at the University of Zimbabwe and the University of Botswana.

At the 29th Session of the UNGEEN in Bangkok, Thailand, in April 2016, the establishment of the Consortium was described by the UNGEEN Secretariat as a meaningful development.

Further information may be obtained from Ms Jani de Lange of the University of the Free State at [DeLangeJC@ufs.ac.za](mailto:DeLangeJC@ufs.ac.za)

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### Web Course on Toponymy

Geospatial analysts, cartographers, map and atlas editors, topographers, place name enthusiast and persons wishing to learn more about toponymy can pursue the **online BSc level, Toponymic web course** at:  
[http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEEN/docs/\\_data\\_ICAcourses/index.html](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEEN/docs/_data_ICAcourses/index.html)

It is a 20 module program, subdivided in chapters, complete with self-study guides, exercises and resource documents presented in a clear and easily followed format.



## Upcoming Events

3-5 August 2016

Sixth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information System

New York, NY

6 – 7 April 2017

Meeting of the Working Group on Exonyms

Czech Geodetical Office, Pod sídlíštěm 9 Kobylisy,  
18211 Praha 8, Czechia

8 April 2017

Meeting of the Working Group on Romanization  
Systems

Czech Geodetical Office, Pod sídlíštěm 9 Kobylisy,  
18211 Praha 8, Czechia

18 – 20 September 2017

International Symposium on Geographical Names

Windhoek, Namibia